

“Shirt-Free” Suit

Dec. 21, 1986-Jan. 3, 1987

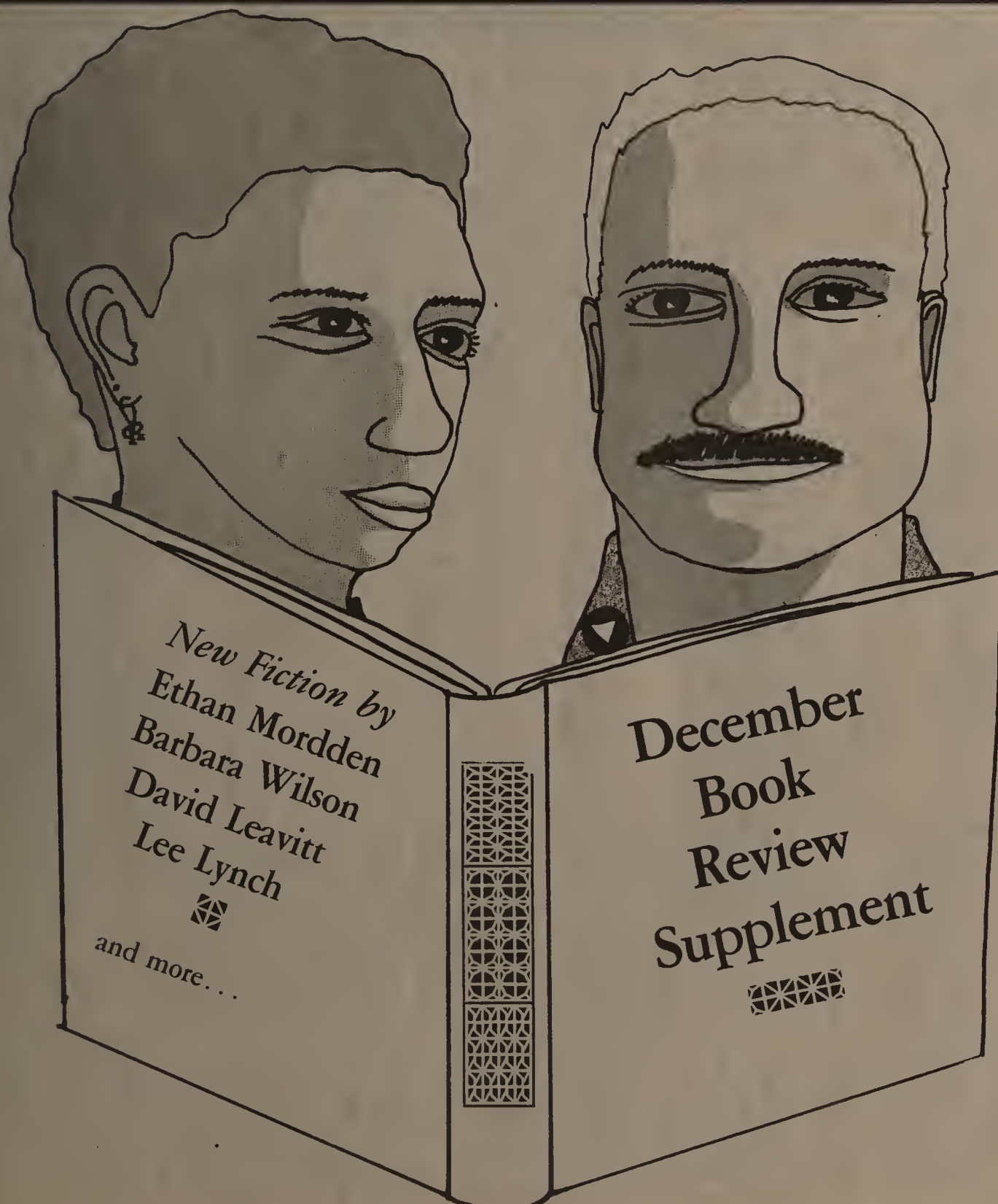
\$1.00

GayCommunityNews

VOL. 14, NO. 23

THE WEEKLY FOR LESBIANS AND GAY MALES

BIPAD: 65498



New Fiction by
Ethan Mordden
Barbara Wilson
David Leavitt
Lee Lynch
❖
and more...

December
Book
Review
Supplement
❖❖❖

GayCommunityNews

Vol. 14, No. 23

(617) 426-4469

© GCN, 1986

Dec. 21, 1986-Jan. 3, 1987

Dissenters on commission pull out all the stops

Mass. Commission Finalizes Foster Care Proposal

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — The state-appointed foster care commission has recommended changes in the state's foster care policy which will make it easier for lesbians, gay men and single people to become foster parents. The proposed changes, finalized at a December 17 meeting, will be presented to Human Services Secretary Philip Johnston by the end of the month. The policy must be approved by Johnston and Governor Michael Dukakis before going into effect.

The recommended policy contrasts with the policy instated by the Dukakis administration in May of 1985, following publicity about the placement of two foster children in the home of two gay men. Under the new policy, placement decisions would be made by

social workers working with foster children. Currently permission has to be obtained from Department of Social Services (DSS) Commissioner Marie Matava, if children are to be placed in a "non-traditional" home. In addition, the recommendations call for the elimination of a hierarchy which mandates that, barring rare exceptions, children be placed in "traditional" families.

While many of the commission's 21 recommendations were discussed at the December 17 meeting, the proposed placement policy drew the most bitter debate. The placement recommendation was voted against by two commission members, making it the only proposal which was not agreed on unanimously by

the commission. One of the dissenters, Richard Craig, a Catholic priest and Administrative Director of Catholic Charities, submitted a minority opinion in support of the state's current foster care placement policy. Representative Marie Parente (D-Milford) also voted against the placement policy.

The recommended placement policy differs from the one that was recently presented at public hearings in Boston and Springfield (See GCN, Vol. 14, Nos. 20, 21). The revised recommendation states that in placing a "child outside of his/her home, the Commonwealth must first look at the following placement resources, in order of priority:

Continued on page 3

AIDS Backlash?

Gay Phone Co. Employee Follows Assault with Suit

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — A gay employee of the New England Telephone Company (NET) has filed a \$100,000 suit against a co-worker who allegedly assaulted him while at work. (See GCN, Vol. 14, No. 19)

The suit, filed on December 10, claims James Barrineau assaulted Jeffrey Long "without provocation, solely because Long is homosexual, with the intention of depriving Long of his right to enjoy his employment free from assault and intimidation."

According to Long, the assault at NET's Congress Street garage followed a series of psychological homophobic attacks. Prior to the assault, graffiti reading "Kill Fags," "Kill Queers," and "I think I might kill Jeff Long," appeared on phone company property. In addition, Long said he has received messages on his answering machine saying, "When I get my hands on you, I'm going to kill you."

On November 14, Long said Barrineau began yelling at him for no apparent reason while a number of employees, including a supervisor, passively watched. According to the suit, "Barrineau beat and punched Long repeatedly in the head and face. Immediately prior to the attack, Barrineau called Long 'queer,' 'faggot' and other epithets directed at Long's sexual preference."

Barrineau said he is "scheduled to meet with counsel" and would not comment on the case.

Michael Connors, representative of the NET employee's union 2222, told GCN that Long struck Barrineau first. He said that Barrineau, who received a thirty-day suspension without pay, was treated unfairly. Barrineau has filed a grievance with the company regarding his suspension.

Long has not filed a grievance with the union. "Jeff has had an unpleasant history with union representatives and they are not sympathetic to him," said Long's

lawyer, David Casey. Long could not be reached for comment on the union.

Connors said he was not aware that Long has had problems with the union. He did say that, except for Long, all the workers, including two gay employees, socialize, drink beer and play softball together.

Long, who was openly gay at work, said he believes his assault is related to NET's handling of Paul Cronan, another gay phone company employee. Cronan, who has AIDS, has been battling to keep his job since 1985, but recently returned to work following an out-of-court settlement of a 1.5 million dollar law suit. Most of Cronan's co-workers refused to return to work on Cronan's first day back.

The attack had nothing to do with sexual preference, asserts Connors. "It was strictly over jobs. Long accused him [Barrineau] of not doing his work properly in front of management." Connors said that "22 or 23" of Long's co-workers have signed a

petition saying that the "incident took place over a work assignment" and that the name of Paul Cronan was never mentioned.

As the case proceeds, it is possible Long may also bring suit against the phone company, said Casey. Such a suit would require a "factual foundation" to show NET supervisors did not take adequate measures to protect Long from an assault which was predictable in light of the publicity regarding Cronan. "I don't know if they were [prepared]" said Casey. "When the incident happened there was a verbal exchange for several minutes. A supervisor should have intervened and stopped it."

Phone company spokesperson Peter Cronin refused to address specifics of the case. "This is an internal matter," he said. "We are aware there was an incident in the middle of November. We investigated the matter and have taken action we feel was appropriate."

Racism and Sexism: Obstacles to Overcome for Nat'l March

By Bob Lederer

WASHINGTON, DC—Lesbian and gay activists across the country are beginning ten months of organizing for an October 11, 1987, March on Washington. But important questions about focus

News Commentary Part I of II

and strategy remain. While some of the issues were discussed at the planning conference in New York City on November 14-16 (see GCN, Vol. 14, No. 21), a number of basic problems are unresolved.

At stake are the prospects for strengthening the lesbian/gay movement, developing alliances with other movements, and changing national policy in several areas.

Foremost among the controversial issues—which include whether the march will have a local or national focus and a multi-issue or a single-issue approach—are how and to what degree racism and sexism will be addressed.

Many of those attending the November meeting said they were encouraged by the general policy statement adopted at the conference, affirming that the strug-

Nat'l Seashore regulation contested

Women Sue to Be Shirt-Free

By Kim Westheimer

BOSTON — A class action suit to overturn the Cape Cod National Seashore's anti-nudity regulation was filed by twelve women, including a number of lesbians, in U. S. District Court on December 16.

The contested regulation makes a distinction between male and female "public nudity." "Public nudity" is defined as "a person's intentional failure to cover with a fully opaque covering that person's own genitals, pubic areas, rectal area, or female breast below a point immediately above the top of the areola [area around the nipple] when in the public place."



Nikki Craft

The women filing suit contend that the regulation is unconstitutional because it deprives women "of their rights to freedom of expression, freedom of association, to privacy, and to due process and equal protection under the law, insofar as males may bare their chests while females may not." According to Jeffrey Denner, lawyer for the plaintiffs, this is the first suit to challenge the anti-female nudity regulation on constitutional grounds.

The women filing suit also contend that prior attempts to challenge the law in court have failed because charges have always been dropped before trial. Therefore, continued arrests of "shirt-free" women are tantamount to harassment, for which the suit is the only legal recourse.

The Cape Cod National Seashore is the only federal seashore with a regulation against nudity. Gabriel Brooke, a lesbian who was arrested in August with nine other women for being shirtfree at Herring Cove Beach (See GCN, Vol. 14, No. 8) said the regulation is "absolutely related to the fact that [Provincetown has] a large gay population." Park Rangers have "harassed gays for years," she added.

Fighting to be "shirt-free" without harassment is "important to me as a gay woman and also as a woman," said Brooke. "There are two counts of discrimination against me." She added, "It's not so much the issue as the principle that I don't have the same rights as men."

Brooke, owner of Gabriel's Women's Inn, said she no longer goes to Herring Cove beach, part of which is predominantly gay male and part of which is predominantly lesbian, because of harassment by rangers. "I was sick of having to be paranoid about rangers coming by," she said.

"It's harassment by government officials," said another plaintiff, Nikki Craft, at a press conference announcing the filing of the suit. Craft, who is not a lesbian, has been involved in numerous anti-porn and pro-nudity actions and has been arrested at the Cape Cod seashore four times. Craft is opposed to anti-porn laws.

Other plaintiffs are Michelle Joy Handler, Carol Agate, Maureen O'Connor, Merrilee Milstein, Melissa Farley, Carolyn Manheim, Laurel Brooke, Diane Kennedy and Diana Fabbri.

The following are named as defendants in the suit: Donald Hodel, Secretary of the Interior, who is responsible for the supervision of public businesses relative to the National Park Service; William Penn Mott, Director of the National Park Service; Herbert Cables, Jr., the Regional Director of the North Atlantic Region of the National Park Service; and Herbert Olsen, the Superintendent of the Cape Cod National Seashore.

problems of racism and sexism in our community. Also, a full discussion could have led to a full plan to *implement* these fine words."

When conference leaders were finally forced to allow debate, the resolution passed overwhelmingly. But according to James Credle, co-chair of the National Association of Black and White Men Together (BWMT), there was also a "racist response" among some white gay men who questioned the need to discuss racism.

Members of the People of Color
Continued on page 3

News Notes

quote of the week

"It has become part of the rhetoric of certain feminists that johns must be arrested in the name of equality and feminism. . . . [Such a policy] engenders the most thoughtless inequality. . . there really is an enormous difference in the effect between the arrest of a professional prostitute and the arrest of an otherwise law abiding citizen who occasionally seeks to taste the forbidden fruit of sex for hire. For the customer, the public arrest can be a catastrophic event. It can ruin a marriage, destroy a reputation, scar his children, terminate a career. It can undo years of positive achievements — even if he's eventually exonerated.

"For the prostitute, an occasional arrest is an expected occupational hazard. The quick arraignment, bail and fine are regarded as a cost of doing business. She is back on the streets hustling her next john within hours."

— Alan Dershowitz, *American Civil Liberties Union lawyer*, in *Penthouse*, as quoted in *Clothed with the Sun*, a nudists' magazine

oregon gay prisoners may kiss visitors

SALEM, OR — The Oregon Corrections Division has agreed to allow kissing, embracing and hand-holding between gay prisoners and visitors to state prisons.

According to the New York *Daily News*, officials issued a "rule clarification" earlier this month after a complaint was filed by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of prisoner Wesley Johnson.

Johnson, who is serving a 10-year sentence for second-degree sodomy, had been disciplined for kissing the hand of a male visitor.

— Stephanie Poggi



closed door

TERRACE, British Columbia — *The Open Door: Rural Lesbian Newsletter*, has ceased publication. Produced by the Northern Lesbians Collective, the newsletter provided a way for rural lesbians to make contact and exchange information and also made "the reality of rural lesbians' lives tangible to our urban sisters."

The collective states that the group will continue to maintain a library and that they hope a new vehicle for rural lesbians will emerge. They also wish to pass on a file of letraset, some graphics, and their experience publishing the newsletter.

To contact the Northern Lesbians Collective, write to R.R. #2, Box 50, USK Store, Terrace, B.C., V8G 3Z9, Canada.

— Stephanie Poggi

conviction of lesbian overturned

TRENTON, NJ — According to the *Trentonian*, a state appeals court has overturned the conviction of a lesbian for the murder of her lover's husband. The Appellate Division of Superior Court said the trial judge should never have allowed jurors to see a hand-written "inflammatory" letter written by the husband, Robert Downey.

The court ordered a new trial for Linda Prudden of Bound Brook, who had been convicted of the 1981 murder of Downey.

Prudden's lover, Diane Downey, had also been found guilty in the murder, but her conviction was overturned by another appeals court in January, also on grounds that admission of the handwritten note denied her a fair trial.

The letter said, "To anyone, if anything happens to me or my kids you can go get, number one, Diane Downey, number two, Linda Prudden. . . . They would be the cause of it." The note was undated.

The prosecution had charged Prudden and Diane Downey with stabbing Robert Downey 40 times on December 23, 1981. At separate trials, each woman was convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment.

— Stephanie Poggi

wanton disregard

NEW ORLEANS, LA — The AIDS task force here has demanded that City Councilman Mike Early resign due to remarks he made about AIDS. According to *USA Today*, the task force said that Early's statement earlier this month that AIDS may be spread by tears, saliva and sweat showed "wanton disregard for factual evidence."

— Stephanie Poggi

battered gay man acquitted of murder

SEATTLE — A Cuban gay man who claimed he killed his lover in self-defense, was acquitted here on November 14. According to the *Seattle Gay News*, this is the first case in the U. S. where "the battered woman's syndrome" was used as a defense in a case involving lovers of the same sex. The "syndrome" appears to refer to the fact that some battered women, often after years of abuse, kill their abusers.

The jurors appeared to accept defense attorney Robert Leen's contention that "the Defendant's [Jose Cabrera's] action[s] are a result of a volatile homosexual relationship in which the Defendant was often the victim of sexual and physical abuse at the hands of the deceased [Maximilian Marin]. Experts . . . indicated that the dynamics of the relationship . . . are not dissimilar to the 'battered woman syndrome' which has been observed in more traditional heterosexual relationships."

Leen said Cabrera had gone to the police as a result of the abuse, but because he does not speak fluent English and police did not speak Spanish, was unable to receive assistance. He also said Marin had raped Cabrera the night before the killing and made threats against his life.

However, Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Jeff Baird argued the relationship was one of mutual exploitation. Baird said, "There was evidence that Cabrera had beaten up Marin and spent 30 days in jail for it."

— Stephanie Poggi

it's a 'dirty lie'

Q: I saw on TV the Smothers Brothers describing Ronald Reagan as a "known heterosexual." How can they get away with such stuff? Isn't there some way the network can be fined for spreading such a dirty lie?

— H. G., Prescott, Arizona

A: It is not a lie. Reagan is a "known heterosexual." Obviously you are confusing heterosexual with homosexual. A heterosexual is one whose sexual attraction is toward a member of the opposite sex. A homosexual is one characterized by a sexual interest in a person of the same sex.

The above question and answer was printed in *Parade magazine*, November 23, 1986.



graphics from *Freedom Organizing* pamphlets, by Ann Cammett

kitchen table's freedom organizing

LATHAM, NY — Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press has published its first three issues in The *Freedom Organizing Pamphlet Series*.

They are *The Combahee River Collective Statement: Black Feminist Organizing in the Seventies and Eighties*, with a new foreword by Barbara Smith; *Appartheid U. S. A* by Audre Lorde and *Our Common Enemy Our Common Cause: Freedom Organizing in the Eighties* by Merle Woo; and *I Am Your Sister: Black Women Organizing Across Sexualities* by Audre Lorde.

The pamphlets offer political analysis by women of color in an accessible format. To order copies or for more information, write to Kitchen Table: Women of Color Press at P.O. Box 908, Latham, NY 12110.

— Stephanie Poggi

aids discourages rest-stop cops?

LOWELL, MA — "This damn AIDS. We're trying to enforce the laws of the Commonwealth, but it's got us handcuffed." So lamented a state trooper and a host of other police officers, in the *Lowell Sun*, about their decreasing inclination to arrest gay men for rest-stop sex. "We're not willing to take a chance and catch it, so the arrests aren't being made. But the problem is there, nonetheless," he added.

While the recent *Sun* article states that "most of the guys [police officers] don't want to go in [rest areas] because of the AIDS situation," a source in Lowell states that arrests have increased since the article appeared. The rest areas in question include ones off Route 3, 495 and 95 in Chelmsford, Salisbury and Attleboro.

— Kim Westheimer



Sept. 27 Sydney March

australian gay solidarity

SYDNEY, Australia — Lesbians and gay men joined a march September 27 in protest of the deaths of Black people in police custody in this country. Melbourne lesbians and gay men also joined a rally by the Aboriginal community on September 28, in support of Aboriginal land rights and against alleged police abuse.

On October 10, Gay Solidarity members marched in Sydney to support the Campaign to Free Nelson Mandela and All Political Prisoners in South Africa. Some carried placards demanding the release of Simon Nkodi, a Black gay South African activist facing charges of treason against the government.

— Kendall Lovett

women don't mourn, they organize

ANN ARBOR — A study by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research shows that women are becoming a stronger force in unions in the U. S., according to *Workers World*.

The study found that 14 percent more women than men workers want a union at their job. In addition, at least half of all new union members in the last 20 years have been women.

When women are significantly represented in unions, issues such as childcare, parental leave, sexual harassment and pay equity take on more prominence in negotiations with management.

West Virginia, Pennsylvania — Among battles won by women workers is the December 5 victory of 400 women miners who brought suit against the USX Company. The women charged they were denied jobs at mines here because of sexism. USX was ordered to pay \$3.3 million to the women who filed suit, according to *Workers World*. USX is also reportedly attempting to eliminate unions in its mines.

— Stephanie Poggi

gay stenographer battles white house

WASHINGTON, DC — A stenographer has won the first round in his fight to regain the White House job he lost when his employer discovered he is gay, according to the New York *Times*. Killian B. Swift, an employee of a private firm responsible for recording and transcribing Ronald Reagan's speeches and press conferences, was barred from the White House for "security reasons."

Judge Joyce Hens Green, of the U. S. District Court in Washington, has dismissed a government motion to disregard parts of the case. The court will now determine whether the White House action violated Swift's rights of association and privacy and denied him equal protection under the law.

The Justice Department did not comment on whether the ruling will be appealed.

— Don Hill

Implications for gay sex in states banning sodomy

Law Bars Interstate Transport for Illegal Sex

By Daniel Tsang

WASHINGTON, DC — Congress has passed and Pres. Ronald Reagan signed into law legislation that bans anyone from transporting an individual — of whatever age or gender — across state or national boundaries with the intent that such a person engage in any illegal sexual activity. The provisions were billed as a reform of the "archaic" Mann Act, which outlawed the interstate transportation of women for "prostitution or debauching or for any other immoral purpose."

The new law means that henceforth, taking someone to a state where sodomy is still illegal, with the intent of engaging in gay sex, makes one subject to arrest. Similarly, transporting a minor across state lines for illegal sex —

even if the minor meets the age of consent in the original state — would be a violation of the statute.

The penalty for violating the statute includes a fine and a maximum five-year jail sentence. For transporting anyone under 18, the jail term is doubled.

The provisions reforming the Mann Act were attached to the Child Sexual Abuse and Pornography Act of 1986, which was rushed through Congress. House bill 5560 was introduced in the U. S. House of Representatives September 19, passed 390-0 ten days later, and approved in the Senate by voice vote October 18, the last day of the 99th Congress. Reagan signed the legislation into law November 7.

Press coverage focused on pro-

visions banning the advertising of sexually explicit material involving minors, and generally did not note implications of the Mann Act revisions.

In passing the legislation, liberal and conservative members of Congress united across party lines. However, 42 members of the House were counted as "not voting," including John Conyers and Sala Burton, liberal Democrats from Michigan and California respectively. Also absent were conservative Republican Ed Zschau who subsequently lost a Senate race against Alan Cranston in California, and Mark Siljander, a conservative anti-porn Republican from Michigan.

But many long-time supporters of the lesbian and gay community

joined the majority approving the bill. These included Ron Dellums, Henry Waxman and Don Edwards, all Democrats from California; Tom Foglietta, Bill Gray and Bob Edgar, Democrats from Pennsylvania; Democrat Ted Weiss from New York; and Gerry Studds, the gay Democratic congressman from Massachusetts.

Another provision of the new statute criminalizes the advertising

of sexually explicit material involving minors, including offering to receive such material. It also makes illegal advertising for sex with or by a minor for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of the sexual activity. The ban on advertising applies to both printed media as well as electronic, including computer bulletin boards.

Individuals violating the adver-

Continued on page 6

Foster Commission Proposal

Continued from page 1

1. Other members of the child's immediate family;
2. Members of the child's extended family; and
3. Foster homes that reflect the child's cultural, religious, racial, ethnic and community identity."

According to Jacquelynne Bowman who chaired the subcommittee which drafted the placement policy, the addition of a statement of priorities was partially in response to "concerns at the hearings" regarding the inclusion of the importance of "cultural, religious and ethnic identity."

But mention of the "family" in the revised recommendations may have been meant to appease those on the commission who opposed the segment of the proposed placement policy which states that sexual preference should not be an "overriding determinant in a person's eligibility to become a foster parent..."

Mention of the biological family did not appease Craig, who in his "minority report" stated, "I am most grateful to my colleagues on the ... Steering Committee for the re-writing on the introduction of [the placement policy] to clearly state the law and policy of the Commonwealth has been directed to strengthen family life and restate the priority of placement options as stated in the [current DSS policy].... Unfortunately [the revised placement policy] does not go far enough to state that family setting, family status, parenting experience are *over-riding factors*."

"Foster children are served best in family settings," reiterated Craig at the meeting.

In explaining his view of the family, Craig began his "minority report" with a quote from Jewish concentration camp survivor Elie

Wiesel. The quote, taken from Wiesel's recent acceptance speech of the Nobel Peace Prize, read, "Suddenly I saw my father. The last time I saw him was in the Camps. I saw my mother, my little sister — all those who disappeared into the kingdom of night. If I am who I am, I thought, it is because of them. And suddenly they were there. They gave me the strength not to speak and then the strength to speak." Craig wrote, "There is no more powerful statement of the over-riding importance of the family."

Parente said her opposition to the proposed placement policy was partially based on a meeting she held with five adolescents who were former foster children. She said she asked them what they thought of being in a lesbian or gay foster home. Two "unequivocally" said they would not want such a placement, two said it would be all right, and one was unsure. According to Leavy, who was also present at the meeting, all of these youths had been abused in heterosexual foster homes.

"You have no scientific data to substantiate your argument," Parente said, referring to those advocating a new placement policy. "I don't [have evidence] but you don't either."

Parente also argued that the topic of gay men and lesbians was inappropriate for the foster care commission. It's no "indictment of the lifestyle of homosexuals or lesbians [to be against the proposed placement policy]," she said. But "if society will not make them happy, that's a discussion for another commission."

Commission members who spoke at the meeting were nearly unanimous in stating that the recommended placement policy

was unrelated to lesbian and gay rights. "I don't look at 'the policy' as a major battle around homosexuality," said commission chair Joe Leavey. "We are removing some of the language that has inflamed a lot of people and insulted a lot of people. We are not giving in to the rights of homosexuals."

But in support of the placement change, Leavey said, "Where can [foster] children go? If we find wonderful traditional families, fine. If I find a doctor, or a male nurse who happened to be gay and said, 'I'll take Johnny,' I say fine." In addition, Leavey said he knew "of female foster children who were sexually abused by men. 'If I put her in a home with a man and a woman, she's afraid of the man. I'm also afraid she'll make accusations against the poor man.'"

"There are some children who may thrive in a non-traditional setting," concurred Bowman. "All potential foster parents ought to be able to be screened for potential foster children."

In reaction to commission members' reluctance to stand up for lesbian and gay rights, Gay and Lesbian Defense Committee (GLDC) member Tom Wilson Weinberg, who attended the meeting, said commissioners may be "intimidated by the governor's homophobia. They're changing [the policy] cautiously." He added, "If they were more direct in that opposition to the policy established in May of '85 they wouldn't get it past Johnston and the governor. What they would like is for the whole thing to be accepted and for the change in placement policy to sneak through. That's not realistic."

Weinberg also told *GCN* he believes the commission's decision to recommend changing the cur-

Discrimination case sets precedent

Worker w/AIDS Reinstated

By Don Hill

MIAMI — In a case expected to have nationwide impact, a Florida man, fired from his job when his superiors discovered he had AIDS, was reinstated to employment on December 8. In addition, Todd Shuttleworth, will receive \$190,000 to cover medical expenses, back pay and lawyer's fees in an out-of-court settlement with his employer, Broward County, Florida. The County also agreed to consider Shuttleworth and other employees with AIDS as handicapped under the federal Rehabilitation Act, but refused to admit discrimination in its original decision.

Shuttleworth, who was diagnosed as having AIDS in June, 1984, was fired from his job as a budget analyst in September, 1984, by officials of the County who feared that his condition might be contagious. With the backing of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Shuttleworth filed suit in the U. S. District Court in Fort Lauderdale and before the Florida Commission on Human Relations, charging employment discrimination.

Though the case was not

decided in the court, both Shuttleworth and the ACLU lauded the settlement as highly significant. Allan H. Terl, vice-president of the Florida ACLU and member of the national ACLU's AIDS Task Force, said the suit's resolution will heighten public awareness that "AIDS discrimination will not and need not be tolerated."

The settlement was the second victory for Shuttleworth. Earlier in the year, the Florida Commission on Human Relations found that AIDS is a handicap under the state's Human Rights Act and that discrimination against persons with the disease is therefore illegal. The decision creates a precedent in Florida and covers both public and private employers statewide.

Though Shuttleworth has been reinstated as a County worker, he will not be working in his former position as a budget analyst. He has been assigned to the office of Dr. Ronald Wright, the Medical Examiner for Broward County and will be working on AIDS education issues.

— filed from Boston

rent policy is a fragile victory. The [Boston] *Globe* will continue to print letters from people who think homos shouldn't be parents and the legislature may attempt to overturn the policy [if approved by the administration]."

But the process leading up to the commission's decision is definitely a victory, said Weinberg. "It shows how powerful our movement is to react the way we did to such an insulting homophobic policy. [It's] a really grassroots gay liberation victory to have gotten it to this point — because people

demonstrated and spoke out and wouldn't let anyone forget."

GLDC member Sarah Holmes has some criticism of the proposed policy, although she said it is "absolutely an improvement" over the current one. "I would rather there not be any priority placed in terms of criteria [regarding family members]. I don't think quality of care can be based on a person being biologically related. [The priorities] put hurdles to providing a ready response [to foster children]."

— filed from New York

National March Organizing

Continued from page 1

Caucus were also outraged by the conference's rejection of several of their proposals, especially the proposed march demand to end U.S. intervention worldwide.

A key test of the commitment to fight racism and sexism will be fulfillment of the mandates for Steering Committee membership: gender parity and 25 percent people of color from each region. If the conference attendance is any indicator (less than half women and very few people of color), this will be a major problem. Lesbians have traditionally had to fight bitterly for recognition and power with the lesbian/gay movement. As to the low Third World turnout, BWMT's Credle said part of the cause is past experiences with white-dominated gay conferences:

"People of color anticipated a level of racism against them. They didn't want to put themselves through the pain and racist attacks which they expected—and which in fact occurred. But some of us are still committed to participating to make a statement about what's happening to gay people of color."

There are several ingredients for changing this situation. For white lesbians and gay men, Credle advised, "First, come to grips with your own racism; recognize that it's not 'someone else's problem.' Then make a commitment to discuss racism and how it affects your community." For Third World lesbians and gay men, Credle sees outreach as key. "Get involved in related events, connect

with other people of color gay groups. We have lots of pain and suffering around AIDS in our own communities and in Africa. We need to broaden this work to deal with health care in general. High unemployment continues to make it unlikely that people of color, especially Black men, will find relief. We can't depend on the general lesbian/gay community to deal with these things; it's a largely white male-dominated community."

Lesbians voiced parallel sentiments about the need for gay men to deal with their sexism, and for lesbians to network with each other while also working with gay men.

Another determinant of who comes to Washington for the

march will be the type of local organizing undertaken. In a position paper circulated at the conference, Lavender Left, a Los Angeles group, wrote "Instead of simply signing up those who would be most likely to go—those who are mobile, middle-class, childless, generally white, frequently male and already involved in an organization—we can seek out those who would broaden and strengthen our movement at the grassroots. People of Color, Lesbian mothers, the disabled, youth, working and poor Lesbians and Gay men are parts of our community very often ignored in organizing work."

Demands to end police and prison violence against lesbians and gay men were finally included

after a proposal by the New York group DAFFODIL (Dykes and Fags Fighting in our Own Defense and for International Liberation). In this case, some delegates objected to linking these "gay" issues to similar police and prison violence against people of color and women. How much such linkage will be made with Third World, working class and women's issues remains to be seen. Closely related is the issue of whether particular concerns of lesbians will be given priority, so that this is not yet another male-dominated mobilization.

Community Voices

GCN JOB OPENINGS

GCN is seeking a **CIRCULATION MANAGER/STAFF WRITER** and an **ART DIRECTOR**, beginning 1/87-3/87.

CIRCULATION MANAGER/STAFF WRITER

Research and write news stories of interest to national readership. Coordinate weekly mailing of paper by volunteers, process subs and renewals. Requires writing skills and ability to work with deadlines, interpersonal, organizational and record-keeping skill. Knowledge of data entry and/or computers helpful.

ART DIRECTOR

Establish overall design of the paper, and oversee the layout and proofreading functions on production night. Design (or assign to volunteer artists) front cover, centerspread artwork/layout, and book supplement graphics, as well as promotional brochures, leaflets, etc. Requires strong graphic design/art skills. Familiarity with type specifications, knowledge of printing techniques and previous related experience preferred.

Positions require familiarity with gay and lesbian community; commitment to gay and lesbian liberation, feminism, anti-racism, and collective decision-making; and an awareness of class issues.

All GCN staff members receive \$180/week plus 4 weeks paid vacation, complete health/life insurance and sick leave. GCN also offers staff members a flexible, non-hierarchical work setting, with room for independence and innovation.

Send resumes to GCN Job Search, 167 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111.

Lesbians and gay men of color are particularly encouraged to apply.

wise violence?

Dear GCN:

Although R. Paul Martin alluded, perhaps humorously, to the right of Gays to use violence in defending their rights with his reference to Lesbian lawyers starting to make bombs in the basement and Gay business councils forming armed communes (GCN, 10/26-11/1, 1986), this is an issue that needs fuller discussion.

The Supreme Court's ruling that sodomy laws are unconstitutional is essentially an unprovoked assault against Gays which should be resisted by any means necessary. Many of the early philosophers who worked out the rationale for a democratic society, such as John Stuart Mill, pointed out that no one has the right to forbid a person from doing anything if he or she is not harming others. In fact, the standard of harm to others is the only objective standard possible since, if we allow theological or personal conceptions to dictate the provisions of the criminal law, we can no longer have a pluralistic society but, instead, a society in which the different religions contend for control of the state in order to force their personal concepts of morality on everyone else.

Since Gay sexual activity affects no one but the people involved, those who assault Gays on the basis of their personal dislike of this activity are no better than someone who assaults a person on the street because they do not like the way their victim combs his or her hair or the color of his or her clothing. A person has the right to defend him or herself if they are assaulted and to even use deadly force if he or she has reason to fear loss of life or grave bodily injury. One also has the right to use deadly force if they're in danger of being kidnapped and held prisoner. One even has this right in defending one's possessions from a burglar.

This right to resist with deadly force is not abrogated if several people assault you and threaten you with loss of life, grave bodily injury or loss of liberty or property. The right still remains in force if there are many assailants. And the right is still in effect if the majority of society have gotten together and called their unprovoked

assault the law. When the fagbashers are police who are arresting Gays and threatening us with loss of life or grave bodily injury (police brutality), loss of liberty (jail or prison), or loss of property (a fine), we are justified in resisting with deadly force and it is only a tactical question whether this right should be exercised. Gays should seek out weapons and martial arts training so that the number of circumstances in which it is advisable to exercise this right are increased.

One also has the right to use deadly force against someone who is ordering an underling to murder, injure, kidnap or burglarize you. Hence, judges, prosecutors and legislators who are directing unprovoked assaults on Gays under the cover of the law are liable to the use of deadly force.

Many people will react with outrage to the above statements but their outrage says, in effect, that people have the right to do anything they want to do to others if they can get a law passed permitting or requiring them to do it. If you had been a Black slave, kidnapped from your homeland, forced to lie chained on a narrow ledge for three months while the wastes from the captives on ledges above you dripped down on you during your passage across the ocean, beaten, and then forced to labor for someone else's profit, wouldn't you have been justified in killing as many of your captors as necessary in order to effect your escape? And perhaps a few more for revenge? And would this justification for violence have been altered because the slave masters had said you were the subject to their law? Far too many people have been brainwashed into believing that the law, whatever its nature, whether just or unjust, should be obeyed. Their attitude is almost a religious attitude of "The Law giveth and the Law taketh away; blessed be the name of the Law."

And we should not assume that violence would be tactically unwise. A small, underground terrorist groups can do tremendous damage; it has been estimated, for instance, that there are only 500 to 2000 people involved in the IRA in Ireland. Sincerely,
Robert Halfhill
Minneapolis, MN

time's wearing away my friendships

Dear GCN:

I wrote you some time ago concerning the restriction of the GCN here at this "facility" [prison]. I'm currently involved with an administration grievance to be allowed to receive it once again. There is so much more I would like to say at this time but I seem to be at a loss for words. In being a victim of the legal-judicial business, you start to see the injustice served to a large proportion of these people. The bigotry is as bad as can be imagined.

I came out 5 years ago at the age of 18. It was the most wonderful feeling I have had in my prior years of the closet. My youth was very trying for me. I could see that being what I was would not be easy. Once I put my name to it and found that there were people that would still like me for who I was, my world seemed brighter with a new direction. Now with a few years of experience in a new light, I see an ugliness and madness that is totally beyond belief.

The reason for my being here is largely because of my sexual preference, even though my 'crime' was for being in possession of drugs. My life has been lived around drugs for many years and I do admit to having a dependency. In this world sometimes there are those who need something to fall back on. But in my pre-sentence investigation report, the main topic was my being gay, and never once was drugs or drug use mentioned, even though that was all my arrest was for. I feel that I was sent to prison once again for being what I am.

The few friends I've made while I was free have stuck by me through all of this and are having a hard time understanding why I've been sent here and are unable to find the legal resources I need to

fight for my rights. Presently I'm serving 1-8 years for my "crime" and have served only 9 months. I went to the parole board last week and they decided I need to do at least one more year. I asked the reason for this and was only told to remain in group therapy (to straighten me out). There is no other reason for me to sit around here for another year waiting for the next parole review.

My question is, do we just sit back and allow this bigotry to happen (and creepingly grow!) or can we do something? I'm aware of your prisoner project and hope that you can help me find some direction. I've been in touch with the Michigan Organization for Human Rights, but they turned us away. Is this the type of response we can expect from other "gay" organizations?

My other fear is that the saying "Out of sight, out of mind" is starting to affect my friends too. Time has a way of wearing away friendships at a distance. I'm sure they will always remain faithful, and will be there when I get out, but for the time being I see our correspondence and conversations becoming more 'distant.' I would appreciate it if you could put me in touch with some people for legal help here in Michigan and also for some penpal friendships. I enjoy reading, music, the outdoors and am hearing impaired.

I have enjoyed your paper and am sorry that the power people feel it violates their rules. Thank you for being there anyway!

Ron Rousseau
171281
2400 S. Sheridan
Muskegon, MI 49442

Take a Break!

Don't look for us in your mailboxes or on the newsstands next week — we're taking our annual winter week off. In the meantime, we hope this extra big issue will keep you busy reading.

We'll be back in the office Monday, Dec. 29. During New Year's week classified and display ads should be in by their normal Tuesday noon deadline. We're moving up production Thursday, Jan. 1; if you want to come proofread or paste-up during the afternoon or evening, we'd love to see you. And don't forget GCN's weekly mailing party Friday afternoon and evening with lots of food, fresh papers and new people to meet. Hope to see you soon.

emotionally-laden prejudice

Dear GCN:

The recent letter to Roman Catholic bishops from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith demonstrates again — in its assertions about sexuality, gay and lesbian people, and AIDS — that the Catholic hierarchy and its archaic religious assumptions pose a serious threat to the well-being of those who deviate from the church's specifications about what constitutes "valid" psychosexual orientation or behavior.

Further, the statement gives compelling evidence of a willingness to look past the facts in favor of long-held and emotionally-laden prejudice. Its linkage of homosexuality with AIDS is both ignorant and mischievous.

The assertion that the sexuality of gay and lesbian people constitutes "behavior to which no one has any conceivable right" itself constitutes an astonishing arrogance. It belies a wish to establish a theocratic state in which an equation is drawn between the Catholic hierarchy and God and the rights of citizens may be rationed by the church according to its doctrines. The point is only heightened by the charge that the gay community invites violence by promoting civil rights protections.

The assertion that homosexuality threatens the lives and well-being of the public because it leads to AIDS is unpardonably remote from the facts. Indeed, the far more devastating AIDS epidemic in East and Central Africa is being spread almost exclusively through "normal" heterosexual intercourse. AIDS is a disease, related to a too-little understood virus, not a punishment inflicted by the cruel deity of the bishops.

In the bishop's view, sexuality remains the object of fear and loathing. Prejudice and discrimination are thus less objectionable than departure from doctrines conceived in a time when primitive notions of sexuality prevailed. These notions have been codified into eternal truth by the Catholic hierarchy; but they are of little value to the modern world and, indeed, pose a serious threat in a time when starvation and overpopulation meet with papal prohibitions against birth control; when women, who now press their claims for equality with men, meet with the stubborn insistence that the male bears more "natural resemblance" to God than the female; when gay and lesbian people, long denied full inclusion in the public realm and instead treated to violence and hate, find their pariah position reinforced by Rome; and when the growing crisis of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, which demands intelligence and compassion, meets instead with ancient superstition.

Such outworn assumptions have a long history of resistance to the common good and to growth of human consciousness. Biblical preachers of little more than a century ago declared the institution of slavery to be God's will. Left-handedness was regarded as a perversion. The rights of women have long been opposed by those who, claiming to speak for God, have quoted the Judaeo-Christian scriptures. Today, the social institution of Apartheid is held by South Africans as an expression of the divine will as detailed in the Bible — a position officially abandoned by the dominant Dutch Reformed Church there only this October.

Unitarian Universalists urge reflection upon outworn religious assumptions and propose a serious religious alternative that affirms reason, science, human intuition and lived experience as profoundly as it affirms ancient religious traditions. We see the current controversy about sexuality and AIDS as religious in nature. It is a controversy about sexuality and participants must respect the rights of the bishops to believe as they may. We do not affirm their right to impose prejudices upon others in a way that distorts facts, feeds public prejudice, or denies civil rights and liberties to those with whom they disagree. The Vatican letter oversteps the bounds of decency and mutual respect in a pluralistic society.

Sincerely,

Rev. F. Jay Deacon

Director, Office of Gay and Lesbian Concerns
Boston, MA

GCN prints all letters to the editor except personal attacks. Carbon copies of letters sent elsewhere are only printed on a space-available basis. Letters should be TYPED and DOUBLESPACED and limited to five typed pages. Send to Community Voices, GCN, 167 Tremont St., Boston, MA 02111.

GayCommunityNews

Cover illustration
and design by:
Kati Towle

Gay Community News is produced by a collective dedicated to providing coverage of events and news in the interest of gay and lesbian liberation. The collective consists of a paid staff of eleven, a general membership of volunteers, and a board of directors elected by the membership.

Opinions reflected in "editorials" represent the views of the paid staff collective. Signed letters and columns represent the views and opinions of the authors only. We encourage all readers to send us comments, criticism, and information, and to volunteer and become members.

GCN collective (in alphabetical order by primary title/function):

* indicates member of paid staff collective
ANTI-RACISM COMMITTEE: Susan Bernstein, Stephanie Poggi, Art Cohen, Gordon Gottlieb

ART/PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT

Art Coordinator: Ina Cohen*
Illustrators/Layout: Francis Alix, Regina Gillis, Tom Huth, Miranda Kolbe, Ellen Meyers, Prasia Moon, Susan Yousem, Ruth West
Proofreaders: Linda Burnett, Jan Fielding, Gordon Gottlieb, Michael Grossman, Rob Krikorian, Read Weaver, Jim Williams

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: Sue Hyde (president), Steve Dyer, Amy Groves, Raymond Hopkins, Shelley Mains, Carl Mann, Anne Phibbs, Debbie Rich

CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT

Coordinator: Marcos Bisticas-Cocoves*
Staff: Linda Gwizdak, Rebecca Gorlin, Michael Cain, John Jones, David Griffith, Carl Mann, Janna Bremer, Bob Gettings, Bill Sweet, David LaFontaine, David Waight

CLASSIFIEDS

Coordinator: Catherine Lohr*
COMPUTER COMMITTEE: Roger Frye, Mark Curby, Steve Dyer
COORDINATING EDITOR

Laurie Sherman*

DISPLAY ADVERTISING

Coordinator: Dan Page*

DISTRIBUTION

Boston area: Barb Cischke
Bulk Distribution: Ray Hopkins
New York Distribution: Ubiquity
Distribution, 1050 East 4th Street,
Brooklyn, NY 11230, (718) 789-3137.

FEATURES DEPARTMENT

Editor: Loie Hayes*
Assistant: Michael Bronski
Calendar Coordinator: Miranda Kolbe
Staff: Siang-huat Chua, Art Cohen, Carrie Dearborn, Nicholas Deutsch, Charles Henry Fuller, Clifford Gallo, Diane Hamer, Janice Irvine, Sally Jordan, Bill Kreidler, Pat M. Kuras, John Kyper, Robin Lippincott, Mara Math, Mark McHarry, Duncan Mitchel, Julie Ogletree, Cindy Patton, Veneita Porter, H.W. Seng, Donald Stone, Maida Tilchen, Tim Walton, Christopher Wittke

INDEXER: Charles Ash

NEWS DEPARTMENT

Editor: Stephanie Poggi*
Local Reporter: Kim Westheimer*
Staff Writer: Marcos Bisticas-Cocoves*
Staff: Scott Brookie, Joanne Brown, Art Cohen, Jim Fauntleroy, Bruce-Michael Gelbert, Chris Guilfooy, Craig Harris, Ann Holder, Stephen Hunt, Sue Hyde, Janice Irvine, John Kyper, Rebecca Lilienfeld, Kendall Lovett, Jennie McKnight, Bob Nelson, Michelle Nethercott, Mark O'Malley, Sharon Page, Ann Phibbs, Lyn Rossano, Tatiana Schreiber, Glenn Sitzmann, Denise Sudell, Sharon Vardatira, Nancy Wechsler, Diana Woodall, Barry Yeoman John Zeh
OFFICE MANAGER/PRISONER PROJ.

Mike Riegle*

Prisoner Project Staff: Debra Davenport, Freddie Greenfield, Larry Hitt, Tiyo Attallah Salah-El

PHOTOGRAPHERS: Susan Bernstein, Marie Favorito, Susan Fleischmann, Marilyn Humphries, Debbie Rich, RINK, Ellen Shub, Brian Quinby

PROMOTIONS DEPARTMENT

Coordinator: Catherine Lohr*
Microfilm Promoter: Donald Stone
TYPOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

GCN Typesetter: Ann Fry*
Outside Typesetting Coordinator: Vicki Gabriner

Staff: Miranda Kolbe, Michael Grossman, Lois Harmon, Suzanne Sowinski

1986, Bromfield Street Educational Foundation, Inc., all rights reserved, reprint by permission only. Our office is located at 167 Tremont St., 5th Fl., Boston, MA 02111. (617) 426-4469.

The paper is published weekly (except the last week of April, August and December), with a double issue the last week of June by the Bromfield Street Educational Foundation, Inc., a non-profit corporation.

Second-class postage paid at Boston, Mass. Annual subscription rate is \$33. ISSN: 0147-0728. Member New England Press Association, Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, COSMEP member.

GCN is included in the Alternative Press Index, published quarterly by the Alternative Press Center, Inc., Box 33109, Baltimore, MD 21218.

Volumes 1-13 of GCN are available on microfilm for \$33/volume. Write GCN/Microfilm for more information.

Postmaster: Send address changes to: Gay Community News, 167 Tremont St., 5th Fl. Boston, MA 02111.

Speaking Out

News Commentary

By Tatiana Schreiber

Although I'm not yet "comfortable behind the word processor," I have, on occasion been paid to write. If that makes me a professional, I hope, as a fellow journalist and a fan, a reporter and a reader, Marcos Bisticas-Cocoves will nevertheless hear me out when I beg to differ. I was intrigued by some of the points he raised in "Just the Facts, Miss Thing" (*GCN*, Vol. 14, No. 21) but I want to make my plea now for *GCN* to retain the distinctions between news, news commentary, and feature writing.

Objectivity, balance and fairness are words that get tossed around a lot when people discuss news. Like Marcos, I'm certain that objectivity (i.e., lack of bias) does not exist, could not be achieved even if it were desirable, and should not be expected. This makes deciphering the news a constant challenge: one needs to bring all one's intelligence and skepticism to the game.

Balance is another story. One could argue that *GCN* should be "more balanced." That is, the paper should solicit more representations of men, of conservatives, or even of heterosexuals! The paper could also seek more representation of people of color, poor people, people from outside the U.S., or people who live in the middle of the country. Since the rest of the media woefully under- and misrepresents gays, lesbians, and the left, it seems appropriate for *GCN* to balance things out by giving us prominence. The *kind* of balance *GCN* provides is up to it to decide.

While objectivity is a dead concept and balance is an editorial choice, fairness is what readers expect and deserve from reporters. At a recent workshop for public and community

radio producers, I heard this point clarified in a way that makes sense to me. Radio reporter Howard Berkis said what reporters need to do is *be fair to a point of view*. That is, we should make sure we are accurately reporting the ideas of those we interview, and, to the best of our ability, describing events the way we observe them. Bias will certainly influence whom you interview and how you see things. Fortunately or unfortunately, it is the reporter's privilege to make those decisions.

The friend who told Marcos he didn't like to be told what to think speaks for many readers. I don't want to be told that Ronald Reagan made a stupid, ludicrous statement the other day on TV. I'd rather read or hear the statement and have the satisfaction of saying "That sure was a stupid, ludicrous thing to say!" When reporters give their own opinions of the news, readers are robbed of our chance to decide what we think. Readers aren't being empowered; we're being patronized.

News should provide readers with all the information we need to draw conclusions. If that includes some information about the reporter, such as the reporter's participation in the demonstration s/he is covering, fine. For the most part, though, news should tell readers what's happening — tell *the* story, not the reporter's story.

News commentary is something else. If someone has done a lot of thinking about an issue or event, and writes her or his interpretation of its meaning, I'm eager to find out what this writer has to say. I'm eager to decide if I agree or disagree and to grab my pen and enter the fray. This kind of dialogue can be the most interesting part of the paper. But *please*, call it an editorial, call it "Speaking Out," call it news commentary. Whatever you call it, it's your opinion. It's *not* a fair representation of anyone else's view and that's what I want in the news. Why? Because I need to know what the other side thinks and I want that information uncluttered by the reporter's interpretation of things.

That doesn't mean the news has to be boring! Show me your anger by *making me angry*, not by telling me I ought to be angry. Yes, boring stories *are* counter-revolutionary. Yes, big words are a drag when small words will do. And yes, the gay press should "respect our complexity and not degenerate into simplicity." I commend the *GCN* news department for, in general, doing a difficult job well. I appreciate the effort made to get to the heart of controversial issues and to incorporate a broad range of issues.

There is a need to look at where alternative media is going, to challenge our tendency towards assimilation, and our need to look and sound like mainstream media professionals. But I would hate to see *GCN* abandon its effort to provide accurate, thorough and careful reporting of the news. We in the gay community count on gay reporters to provide information the straight media covers up or ignores. Don't give up giving us all sides of the story — whether it's homophobia out there where we expect it or inside our own institutions; corruption at the CDC or corruption in the gay press. Keep telling the story, but let the readers think for themselves.

Tatiana Schreiber is a media junkie, hooked on radio, who hopes someday to be an audio artist. She is confident that there are at least two other sides to this story.

Community Voices

hungry: on strike for love

Dear *GCN*:

In prison it isn't allowed for two people to "belong" to each other by their own choice. They must be part of the master and slave "punk" system in which someone "weak" is owned by someone "strong," a "real man." Here, where meanness and bitterness are the source of action of so many, caged and keepers alike, love is a most rare and precious (and dangerous) thing; it can make the difference between despair and hope, between loathing of existence and exuberant love of life!

At age 28, after over eight years here, difficult years where I had to come to terms (alone) with a sexuality which is not only derided, but dangerous, I met someone with whom there was instantly a perfect, almost lock and key snugness between our hearts and minds.

At the time we were both in "protective custody" and, like so many flowers in here, he too had spent years at the hands of mean-spirited "men." There was constant pressure on us to "choose up" [an "owner/protector"], and this pressure finally resulted in our being violently attacked. When we defended ourselves, we were seen as deserving of punishment, for the administration is hysterically homophobic when it comes to gays displaying anything but rigid and abject servitude to the status quo (no affection, only slavish loyalty). The administration had put us in a "protection" wing where we were attacked by prison administration goons. Where does one stop running? They persistently allow the same cliques to create the same problems, locking up the victims, keeping the threatening atmosphere clear and present.

We are now in total isolation; arbitrary separation from each other. Had we been administrative pets, snitches, "real men," we would have been treated differently, but then we wouldn't have been lovers either.

As of Thanksgiving Day we have been on a hunger strike, both as desperate protest and sullen rejection of passive acceptance of our mistreatment, and as a means of pushing the administration to deal with us as human beings (and according to their own "due process" rules!) As I pen this appeal for support, we are in our 11th day without food. We are, of course, being ignored, and will likely continue to be ignored unless you out there, who care, let the powers that be around here know that we are not alone, not (really) isolated, and cannot be ignored to the point of death without having to answer publically for the unfairness of what they do.

We are committed to this until we are dead, or the administration frees us from this incomprehensible and cyclical punishment that we don't deserve. I myself have spent too many years alone to go back to that desperate cycle of hiding feelings and being punished for "slips." But if it should come to that, we don't want our deaths to count for nothing and be swept under the rug.

Please let your presence (your anger) be felt and show these officials we are a community. Please write: Bill Armontrout, Warden, Missouri State Penitentiary, Jefferson City, MO 65102; with copies to Governor John Ashcroft, Capital Bldg, Jefferson City, MO 65102; Senator James R. Strong, Rm 217 Capital Bldg, Jefferson City, MO 65102; Dick Moore, Director, Dept. of Corrections and Human Resources, PO Box 236, Jefferson City, MO 65102; and to the St. Louis Post-Dispatch etc..

Thank you,
Mason Vandiver
35361
Box 900
Jefferson City, MO 65102

[Prisoner Project Note: "Vanna" has long been a colorful and sassy member of *GCN's* Prisoner Project. The letter needn't be long and complicated to these officials; just a 'flag' to let them know we're here.]

think twice about the salvation army

Dear *GCN*:

In October of this year, the New Zealand Gay/Lesbian Archives was burnt to the ground. Everything was lost including many irreplaceable items that documented the history and culture of Lesbians and Gays in New Zealand and the surrounding South Pacific area.

As of this writing, the arsonists have not been caught. From the evidence it is believed that the fire was deliberately set by Christian fundamentalists. We also know that the primary funding for the Christian fundamentalist campaign against Gays and Lesbians of New Zealand and elsewhere comes from the Salvation Army of the United States.

Here in the United States the Salvation Army has a somewhat more mixed record. In Rochester, Minnesota, the local chapter of the Salvation Army has provided assistance to the Lesbian/Gay organization there on a regular basis. In New York City, the Salvation Army was one of the principle opponents to equal rights legislation for Gays and Lesbians and was even instrumental in bringing suit against the city and the mayor. In Chicago the Salvation Army refused a large cash donation from a Gay/Lesbian organization because they did not wish "to imply acceptance of your lifestyle."

You must, of course, make your own decisions when donating your money, but this year during the holidays I am asking you to think twice before dropping your loose change in a Salvation Army pot.

Instead, please consider two options. One, if you feel strongly about donating to the Salvation Army, give to a Lesbian/Gay sympathetic chapter like Rochester and ensure that your money is used locally and that it does not "free up" other money to be used for programs injurious to your brothers and sisters. The second option is to save that loose change and drop it in a donation jar at one of our local Lesbian/Gay businesses or organizations.

The money collected in these donation jars will be sent to the New Zealand Lesbian/Gay Archives after the New Year's weekend to help them rebuild. This is intended to be a one time event as a symbol of our friendship and unity with our sisters and brothers so far from us, and yet untouched by the same bigotry and hatred that we are. Your donations will not be tax deductible so these must be truly gifts from the heart.

If you would prefer, you may send a donation directly to Lesbian and Gay Rights Resource Center (LGRRRC), c/o Phil Parkinson, P.O. Box 11-695, Wellington, New Zealand. Be sure to use an international money order and sufficient postage. If you have questions about our local efforts, please feel free to call me at home, (612) 228-1858, after 3 p.m. any day.

No matter what your holiday preference, this year please be more conscious of who you donate your money to and how they use it. And please drop a few coins in Gay/lesbian "kettles." The destruction of the New Zealand Library and Archives was the destruction of your history and your heritage.

In Gay/Lesbian Pride,
Jean-Nickolas Tretter
St. Paul, MN

"Speaking Out" is part of our continuing effort to provide a true forum of opinion for the community. We encourage you to send your ideas, feelings, and comments to us and we encourage you to respond to any ideas expressed in this space. Submissions to "Speaking Out" should be TYPED and DOUBLE SPACED, and, if possible, held to under 5 pages in length. The *GCN* staff collective reserves the right to limit length and number of signatures in "Speaking Out." The opinions expressed in "Speaking Out" do not necessarily reflect the views of the newspaper, the staff, or the advertisers. Write c/o Speaking Out, *GCN*, 167 Tremont St., 5th Fl., Boston, MA 02111.

What's the best way to share some holiday cheer and celebrate your community?

A *GCN* Gift Subscription!

GayCommunity News

Mila Aguilar and the Philippines:

Where Words Are Crimes and Poets Are Prisoners



An Interview with Karin Aguilar-San Juan

Now until January 30 you can give your lover, friends, family, or yourself a new subscription or renewal at up to **60% off the regular low cost.**

Spread the news: give them *GCN* — the nation's oldest and most respected lesbian & gay newsweekly.

Turn to the back cover for details and order forms.

SUBSCRIBE

AIDS Fears Shadow Lesbian's Memories

By Corinne Lightweaver

It's one of those things that sneaks up on me when I least expect it. I'm staring out the window and a picture of Paul or Chuck or Doug will appear to me. And I wonder which of my friends are still alive.

The gay and lesbian student newspaper's edition on "The Gay Cancer," as it was called then, came out during my second year of college in 1982. I, like most others, didn't pay much attention to it. College students have the illusion that they're going to live forever.

I was 19 then, I thought I'd be 50 — not 23 — before I'd ponder the mortality of my peers.

It's sort of like mourning a lost generation. I'm too young to remember Vietnam, but I wonder if this is anything like what people of that generation feel when they look at their old college yearbooks. I feel like the boys have gone to war without me. Only this time there won't be any memorials. Nor the cheering crowds awaiting their return.

What difference does it all make anyway? I wasn't so close with these men, but in a way I was. They made a difference in my life. And I didn't expect them to pass out of my life so quickly.

I didn't know any lesbians in high school. I didn't seriously consider the possibility. Although I had passing lesbian desires, I never named them or recognized them as such, just accepted the impossibility of their coming to fruition.

Paul was my first gay friend, an elegant, poetic, multi-lingual man. He was fairly closeted until the last year of high school, though probably his gayness was unspoken knowledge before. I saw *Das Ende*

with him several years ago.

I met Chris in high school, too. During the spring of my first year at UCLA, I went out with him for a few uneventful months. A year later, we met again... in the Gay and Lesbian Association office. Although he thought he had effectively hidden it from me, I had known since high school that he was interested in men. Last I heard, he had taken off for the gay Mecca, San Francisco.

I'm too young to remember Vietnam, but I wonder if this is anything like what people of that generation feel when they look at their old college yearbooks. I feel like the boys have gone to war without me.

des Regenbogens, a film about gay hustlers in Berlin, with him. The end of the rainbow. Then he went off to Harvard, from where I received an occasional letter detailing his latest lover. I lost touch

I started writing for *TenPercent*, UCLA's gay and lesbian newspaper, in 1983. I had already written on lesbian topics for *Together*, the feminist student newspaper of which I was managing editor, but

writing for the gay newspaper was coming out on campus in a whole different way. Although my reality as a lesbian differs from that of gay men, I nevertheless grew to appreciate our differences, and the humor, camp and culture of *TenPercent's* mostly male staff.

One of my favorite staffers was Sean, a very beautiful man with a great sense of style, who upset the campus entirely by crashing the recruitment parties on Sorority Row in drag one year. Craig and I shared introspective moments, went dancing together, and discussed our futures in journalism.

Wherever those boys are now, our connection is as tenuous as it was then. But because that tenuousness now includes the fragility

of life itself, the connection is somehow much more profound.

It's all very strange to me at 23. And the memory of the campiness is tinged with sadness. Whether these men are alive or not, the fragile meeting ground I shared with them has been rift apart by a microscopic menace they didn't tell us about in high school biology.

In retrospect, "Toto, I have a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore," that phrase indelibly scrawled on the *TenPercent* office walls, takes on an ironic twist for me. Like Dorothy, we've entered a strange new dimension. Only this time, Glinda the Good Witch has not arrived in her bubble to wave all harm away.

Interstate Sex Transport

Continued from page 3

tising provisions are subject to a maximum \$100,000 fine and ten-year jail term. Organizations could be fined up to \$250,000.

According to a House Judiciary Committee report accompanying the legislation, the government would not have to prove that a defendant actually knew the person depicted was in fact under 18, or that the depictions violated federal law. All that was necessary for the government to prove was that "the defendant knew the character of the visual depictions as depicting a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct."

The ads themselves need not be "obscene," nor contain an illegal visual depiction. The Judiciary Committee said it believed "this comports with the First Amendment."

The new law also redefines what is considered child pornography to cover undeveloped film and videotape. In a case currently on appeal, attorneys for Leland Stevenson, convicted of transporting from Nevada to California undeveloped film found later to depict minors having sex, are arguing that "visual depiction" under the 1984 Child Protection act did not include unprocessed film. Congress has now removed that apparent loophole.

In debate preceding the House and Senate votes, members of Congress lauded the bill as protecting children, the nation's "greatest resource." Sen. Jeremiah Denton (R-Ala.), who

three weeks later was to lose his seat in the elections, attacked pornography in a statement inserted in the Congressional Record, as "an epidemic that devastates the personal and social well-being of contemporary society."

He claimed that Senate hearings "have demonstrated beyond doubt there is a direct link between child pornography and the sexual abuse and exploitation of our Nation's children." He argued that "pedophiles make extensive use of child pornography to stimulate and justify their behavior, to lower the child's inhibitions and reluctance, to blackmail the child victim and to establish a medium by which they can communicate with other like-minded criminals."

Sen. William V. Roth, Jr. (R-Del.), sponsor of similar legislation in the Senate, also inserted his remarks. Roth argued that "it is established beyond doubt that pedophiles — emotionally disturbed individuals who are sexually attracted to children — make extensive use of child pornography to stimulate and justify their ugly behavior and to entice and blackmail their helpless young victims. For the sake of our children, we must do more to restrict the availability of child pornography to these individuals."

Passage of the legislation follows similar recommendations made by Attorney General Edwin Meese's Commission on Pornography in its final report.

© Daniel Tsang 1986



Sundays are great — there's a free brunch from 3-5:30, live entertainment from 3-7:00, and Tea Dance at 5:00 — but now they're even better for

WOMEN

Because starting Sunday, December 14, every Sunday night is Women's Night. Ellie Boswell kicks it off in the lounge. Followed by a great women's film.

AT

Boston's newest club — clean and beautiful. There will be slow dancing and your favorite classics along with today's music. With exquisite sound and a captivating dance floor.

UPTOWN 965

Take the Mass. Ave. exit off the Expressway, or just come right up Mass. Ave. There's free secured parking for your safety and convenience. Admission is free on the 14th.

965 Massachusetts Avenue, Boston MA 02118 (27-17-11)

The Frame Gallery

Fine Custom And Do It Yourself Framing



300 Harvard St. (rear)
Brookline, MA 02146
617-232-2070
Coolidge Corner near
Green Line 'T'

Offering The Widest Selection Of Frame Styles And A Complete Range Of Services Including But Not Limited To

Gold And Silver Leaf, Lacquer Finishes,
Raw and Pre-finished Hardwoods
Frame Mica® And Nielsen®
French Matting
Dry Mounting
Shrink Wrapping
Frame Restoration
Archival Quality Materials
Consultation By Professional Frame Makers

We Serve Artists, Architects, Galleries, Corporations, Institutions And Individuals.
20% Discount with This Ad.

Buddy Stories Your Brother Never Told You

Buddies

Ethan Mordden
St. Martin's Press, New York, 1986
\$16.95 hard cover, 240 pp.

One Last Waltz

Ethan Mordden
St. Martin's Press, New York, 1986
\$13.95 hard cover, 196 pp.

Reviewed by Michael Bronski

When I first moved to Boston in 1971 a great deal of my evenings — when I wasn't off at political meetings or at my five adult and six child collective home — were spent at bars. Back then everyone went to Sporters; it was so popular that most times we never even had to say the name — it was *the bar*. And the best part of being there was not to pick up tricks — although that was certainly a plus — but the feeling of belonging, of community. Not that everyone knew everyone else, there were fairly well drawn cliques, but all of the regulars knew one another by sight, as well as what their stories were, or were supposed to be. That is what I remember most and what I miss — the men and the stories.

There was Gerry Sawyer, the bartender, who was very short and incredibly handsome, Allyn Amundson, an artist, and rumored to be into heavy s/m; Bob, who we all called "sad eyed lady of the lowlands" because of his permanently forlorn expression; Tony, a drag queen with a tongue like a razor; and Jack who always referred to himself as "self" and would disappear from sight every now and then. Whenever you would go to the bar there would always be a new anecdote about someone; a common, growing mythology/saga formed about each of them — and us — which made us all feel more of a group, less alone, even though sometimes we barely knew each others' names.

Maybe it's me, maybe it's 1986, maybe it's how we have all changed, but I don't have that now. The social fabric is different, there are fewer stories and more hurtful gossip. People seem less interested in one another's lives and more concerned with articulated politics or professional standing. I miss the stories, with their ever changing details and sometimes dubious authenticity, which were formed from a mixture of fiction, fact and fantasy.

These books by Ethan Mordden — the novel *One Last Waltz*, the short story collection *Buddies*, as well as an earlier collection of stories, *I've a Feeling We're Not in Kansas Anymore* — remind me of those times in Sporters. All three are an odd mixture of fiction, autobiography, social observation, and fantasy. Mordden is a born tale spinner. Like the fabulists of the middle ages he creates stories, embellishes them, weaves them together and presents a tapestry of what life is, might be or sometimes should be. But he is also a witty social commentator; like a miniaturist Dickens or Trollop, a Sheridan rather than a Wilde, he can capture, pin down and dissect gay male conventions and mores, exposing not only their foolishness but their emotional necessity. He has a view of gay men which is at once loving and critical, seeing them struggling to be intimate lovers and erstwhile brothers. Mordden realizes that gay family life, like nuclear family life, is enormously complicated.

I've a Feeling We're Not in Kansas Anymore was published in 1985, *One Last Waltz* earlier this year, and *Buddies* has just been released. Taken together they can be seen as a mini-epic of gay life, complete with

classical conventions. *Kansas* begins with Mordden invoking his muse in "Interview with a Drag Queen" which ends with the prayer "God make me as honest a storyteller as the drag queen was." *Buddies* ends with the redemption of a prodigal son as he is welcomed back into his gay family. Most of the pieces in *Kansas* and *Buddies* have been taken from Mordden's column in *Christopher Street* "Is there a book in this?" They all feature Mordden as a main character as well as his (fictional?) friends: best buddy Dennis Savage, Dennis' younger lover Little Kiwi, (as well as Kiwi's D-list dog Bauhaus) and Carlo, the hottest man any of them knows. There is also Ethan's straight brother Jim, an iron worker, who is Mordden's connection to his biological family and the straight world, as well as a reminder that all gays are men and that the problems het men have with one another are sometimes very similar to those between gay men.

The novel *One Last Waltz* is a break from the



Ethan Mordden

personalized story telling. The story of a working-class, Irish, immigrant family, it concerns Dublin Johnny Keogh and his wife Nora who move to New York and raise three boys: Great American Johnny, who follows in his father's footsteps as a social and legal outlaw; Iron Mike, who works construction; and Little Brother Dennis, the youngest, who is gay and becomes a song writer. Although we find out in the other stories that Ethan comes from a middle-class family (of construction workers), that there were five brothers, not three, and that the author's view of gay life is much different than Dennis Keogh's, it is hard not to draw the parallels. Reading *One Last Waltz* is like scanning another gloss, examining another exegesis on, not only the life of Ethan Mordden, but all brotherly relations and their implications of gay life and identities.

Mordden has written *One Last Waltz* in the form of an old Irish saga in which the King of Tara plays chess with the scornful Witch of Fooley for the fates of his three sons: a warrior, a mason and a poet. Mordden updates the saga with the Keogh family and the epic tale of betrayal, feuding and redemption becomes a family drama with a distinctly contemporary, psychological point of view. Beneath all of the

specifically Irish family quibbling, the underlying theme of *One Last Waltz* is the relationship and the responsibilities that brothers have towards one another. And although the novel gives each of the brothers his due story, it is clear at the end that Mordden is seeking to find a theme of reconciliation. It is no accident that the family which survives at the book's climax is not necessarily the one the reader thought was present at the beginning.

What raises *One Last Waltz* far above the usual family *roman* is not just the gimmick of the ancient fable in modern clothes (although this does work very well), but Mordden's language and his sheer joy at telling a story. Both books of short stories are written in what the author would call "gay" — a mixture of gay male linguistic mannerisms, coded references and a camp tone which is both pithy and accurate. *One Last Waltz* uses an equally invented tone: a lyric brogue, and an unusual lilting cadence that conveys an idiosyncratic Irish American voice without ever falling into stereotype or sounding patently false. On its own *One Last Waltz* is a stand out; next to, or rather between, *Kansas* and *Buddies* it is remarkable.

The topic of brothers haunts *Buddies* the way that the Witch of Fooley haunts the Keogh family in *One Last Waltz*. In his introduction Mordden writes: "The French tend to write about manners, the Germans about knowledge, the English about sex. Americans write about families, gay Americans particularly." It is clear from the stories that follow: "family" to Mordden usually means "brothers." "Kid Stuff" begins with Ethan being baited by Dennis Savage to tell how all of the Mordden brothers used to tryst incestuously, sleeping with one another in the same bed. Ethan insists that it was like "puppies lying in a pet store window" but then their friend Ron tells how he knew of a man who, as a teenager did have an affair with his brother. The story is bittersweet and ends with the man saying, "I had a tender, handsome man take me through the hard parts of late adolescence, so I missed a lot of pointless anxiety. But where was I supposed to go next? I've been looking for another brother ever since." Clearly for Mordden we learn to love other men by loving our own male families first. Life in *Buddies*, and in the other two books, is a constant search for emotional and sexual satisfaction from other gay men — a search that many times is to replicate the earliest male/male bondings of youth and family.

But not all brother-love is puppy dogs and teen romance. In "A Weekend with Straights" we discover that in their youth brother Jim had tried to drown Ethan. When the author finally asks him why — 30 years later, on the beach at Fire Island — Jim simply replies "Sport, some men just weren't meant to be brothers." This dueling-paradigm of the loving brother and the murderous brother overrides the emotional life of all of the men in *Buddies*. In "Raw Recruits" there are three short tales which show the ugly underside of gay life; there are no friends or loving brothers here, just exploiters and destroyers. The same is true of "The Hottest Man Alive," which ends with the central character refusing to smile: "Because nothing works and everybody dies. Because it hurts." The betrayal by a brother is even more devastating than that of a colleague or an enemy.

The most surprising thing at the end of *Buddies* is to realize that although Ethan takes up the most space, the real story of the book is Carlo's. Having given up on gay life in New York he returns to his biological family in South Dakota. This betrayal of his gay family is treated with anger and in his last of three letters from Dakota he writes: "And listen, whatever happens now, don't you forget me, boy! Because once you're buddies, it doesn't matter if you're there, just how you feel, and

Continued on Book Review page 8

Gay Male Fiction Comes of Age in Anthology

Men on Men: Best New Gay Fiction

George Stambolian, editor
New American Library, New York, 1986
\$9.95 (paper) 375 pp.

Reviewed by Donald Stone

In his introduction to *Men on Men*, George Stambolian combines an explanation of how its 18 stories were selected with a review of the major trends in gay male fiction from approximately 1970 to the present. By also relating the tales included in the anthology to various facts of that development, he leaves no doubt that this volume constitutes a veritable digest of the remarkable strides made by the genre in recent years. As such, and bearing the imprint of a mainstream American publisher, *Men on Men* is a triumph. It charts for the authors, for their material, and for gay male culture a coming of age that has occurred despite (and perhaps even because of) the current conservative upsurge in American society.

Of particular note in that triumph is the movement here away from fiction as titillation and toward an exploration of the gay male experience as a distinct, yet unmistakable segment of the human condition. Some stories juxtapose the gay and straight worlds or different strata of the gay community or reveal less familiar aspects of the gay male culture. Others study their subjects within situations that are not specifically gay: confronting family relationships, facing the tug between monogamy and desire, surviving the death of a partner, and so forth. In each instance, sexual preference is never lost sight of, but a significant proportion of these stories subordinates it to the broader issue of struggling to live on against the odds. Indeed it is indicative of the spirit of the

anthology that even in tales like "A Queer Red Spirit" and "Street Star," which depict the more "outrageous" of gay male styles, the plot insists on drawing us into the inner dramas related to survival.

For that reason alone I cannot agree with a recent characterization of gay fiction (including this volume) as "tourism," by which was meant that these writers' intent is to take the reader "on a walking tour through the faubourgs of Sodom" (Daniel Harris, *The Boston Review*, Dec., 1986). At its best the writing in *Men on Men* consistently avoids the very phenomenon Harris describes. Consider Robert Ferro's "Second Son," for example, which focuses on the history of a house, its occupants, and restoration, all the while making use of that setting to reveal the complex relations between a gay man and his family. I should add, moreover, that the man is dying of AIDS. Yet, here too, the story sidesteps the spectacular in favor of the human. AIDS functions in the tale as does crisis in any good tragedy: as the means to heighten and highlight the dramas already present in the characters' universe. Surely this is the stuff of neither Sodom nor its suburbs. By the same token, the excellence in Ferro's conception and execution of this tragedy and similar achievements by Andrew Holleran and Michael Grumley inevitably become yardsticks by which other of the stories are measured and judged.

Every genre must give rise to some experimentation and variety to remain vital, but when Bruce Boone and especially Robert Glück push fiction into the background and offer exchanges like "Brian said, 'Jackie Kennedy made the pillbox hat famous . . . She made Gucci famous,' 'Thrilling words,' I said, 'I can only add that the discovery of the individual was made in early 15th century Florence. Nothing can alter that fact. Don't you think that's interesting? I do,'" the likelihood that hosts of readers will skip to the next story seems to me assured. Elsewhere, a writer tells his story backwards. Another invents a corps of gay spirits to hover over the narrator. The effect is hardly as lethal



From the cover of *Men on Men*

as Glück's conversation but it could conceivably be used to illustrate the point that different does not always equal profound.

More surprising perhaps than this extreme
Continued on Book Review page 3

Lesbian Scripts Debut in the Footlights

Places Please! The First Anthology of Lesbian Plays

Kate McDermott, editor
Aunt Lute Press, Iowa City, 1985
\$8.95, 209 pp.

Reviewed by Monica Hileman

Three years ago when Kate McDermott was looking around for a lesbian play to direct she had difficulty finding one. To her surprise and dismay she found there was no collection of plays by, for and about lesbians, so she set about putting one together. After sifting through over 50 scripts she chose the seven included here in *Places Please! The First Anthology of Lesbian Plays*.

The first in the collection is *Dos Lesbos*, the premier lesbian play by Terry Baum and Carolyn Myers. First performed by the authors in 1981, *Dos Lesbos* is a revue featuring Peg and Gracie, a pair of modern middle-class dykes, and their struggles with the world at large, with family and each other. Gracie agonizes over the best way to come out to her parents. In order to warm up for the big revelation Peg and Gracie experiment with role playing and end up acting out the scenario of Coming Out to Mom in a progression of theatrical styles: heavy Greek Tragedy, light Restoration comedy (mother and daughter have affair with the same woman), TV sitcom, and horror movie (daughter turns into a howling bull dyke before her mother's eyes).

Terry Baum once said of *Dos Lesbos*, "It's a great show. . . it's got something in it to offend everybody." I agree. The dialog is well written, the scenes are entertaining and Gracie and Peg both come across as real, expressing themselves to each other as lovers do, without worrying about being taken the wrong way. Which brings us to the parts that might offend. For me it was the joking about whether or not they should kill off all the faggots as they plot to do away with all the men in the world. Others might be provoked by the exchange about feeling like an outcast for being queer.

Peg: Considering what society is like, I prefer to be an outcast.
Gracie: Me, too. Especially since I'm Jewish. I'm more comfortable as an outcast. It's in my blood. But I've never really felt oppressed as a Jew. Maybe someday I will.

Peg: Being black is still a very good oppression.
Gracie: That's true, but there's no way that you can choose it. No, when you get right down to it, homosexuality is the oppression of choice. . . ."

Later on, Peg asks Gracie why she likes being a lesbian.

Gracie: Because it's very chic, because it's politically correct, because I'm fed up with men, because it upsets my parents, because it's a little dangerous, because I like being oppressed, because I like breasts. . . ."

Dos Lesbos is funny and energizing. It raises issues about what it means to be a lesbian (i.e., a white, middle-class lesbian) and I liked it for being true to its characters. I'd loved to see it performed.

If you went to last year's Women in Theater Festival, you may have had the pleasure of seeing another play by Terry Baum performed by the author. The play *Immediate Family* takes place inside a hospital room where Virginia visits her comatose lover, Rose.

A 55-year-old old-fashioned dyke who thinks all this gay pride stuff is a lot of hooey ("I'm gay. Isn't that enough? Do I have to be proud of it too?"), Virginia is certainly not gay because it's chic. For her it wasn't a matter of choice. In her U.S. Mail carrier's uniform, short hair and butch swagger, coming out is still a problem, but not something she really needs to do. "Ahh, who'm I kidding? Everybody knows I'm a hoh-moh-sexual. Even my Aunt Ida in Fort Wayne." From the beginning when Virginia enters the hospital room we get a feel for her. Not being a member of the immediate family, Virginia's visits are restricted to normal visiting hours even though they've been lovers for the past 27 years. Virginia knows that's wrong, but she can't bring herself to say anything about it. She's nervous enough just giving Rose a kiss on the lips.

Through Virginia's bedside monologs we get a sense of the influence Rose has had on her life: Rose was always the more political of the two, the one who was on the mailing lists of half a dozen "do-good organizations" and the one who wanted to march in gay pride. Baum has a good ear for the way people talk and she knows how to get a character across not only by what they say, but how they say it.

The importance of family is a strong theme in the two plays by Sarah Dreher included in this collection. In *8x10 Glossy*, Carter returns to her coastal Maine hometown on the anniversary of her father's death. It's a surprise visit for her older sister Julie and her mother Ketty. Julie is dissatisfied with her marriage, popping pills, and on the verge of getting involved with a woman named Dana. Carter is recovering from a run-in

with a right-wing fundamentalist that landed her in jail and, we find out later, from the pain of being left by her long-time lover. Carter is out to her family, who seem to genuinely care about her; and Carter cares about them, too, though they all have a hard time showing it.

The play is about the renewal of a bond between sisters that was long ago warped by the effects of their father's violence. Dear old dad, it turns out, used to beat Carter when she was small. Julie still can't forgive herself and their mother for being unable to stop it. Until Carter can face the ugly truth about what happened, Julie is convinced her sister will never be a whole person.

Editor McDermott explains in the introduction that there are some plays that read better than they play, and others that play better than they read. At times I thought *8x10 Glossy* fell into the second category. I didn't get a strong sense of the characters and for that reason found the dialog to be a little contrived in parts — the repeated symbolic reference to "pit burn" (an affliction that strikes peaches, making them rotten inside), for instance, added little. In the hands of a good director *8x10 Glossy* could be a powerful play about overcoming the effects of family violence.

Ruby Christmas, also by Dreher, is about another visit home. Bronwen, the wayward lesbian daughter who has taken up lobster fishing, comes to the family gathering with her lover. As in *8x10 Glossy* there is an off-stage father (in this case, Frank in his den watching football on his new VCR) and a married sister (in-law) who is disillusioned about marriage. But *Ruby Christmas* is a more complex, and for me, more compelling play because of the very believable handling of the relationship between Bronwen and her mother Harriet. For Harriet it's disappointing that her daughter is queer, but what is even more disturbing is Bronwen's lack of appreciation for the class privilege that Harriet has worked so hard to achieve and maintain. Harriet may be married to an insensitive lout, and have to kiss the ass of the boss's wife on a regular social basis, but she has a nice house, money to send the kids to college and the security of knowing that she'll never be poor again; that's what counts. *Ruby Christmas* portrays the conflict between women of the generation that grew up in the shadow of the Depression and the next generation that can't understand their parents' fixation with being middle-class and all the conformity that goes with it. Bronwen and Harriet are both strong-willed women who love and respect each other in their own way.

Continued on Book Review page 6

BOOK

GAY COMMUNITY NEWS

REVIEW

BOOK

GAY COMMUNITY NEWS

REVIEW

BOOK

GAY COMMUNITY NEWS

REVIEW

BOOK

GAY COMMUNITY NEWS

REVIEW

Prostitute's Murder Propels Dyke Sleuth's Search

Sisters of the Road

Barbara Wilson
The Seal Press, Seattle, 1986
\$8.95 paper, 202 pp.

Reviewed by Ann Fry

Reading Barbara Wilson's *Sisters of the Road* is like making a serendipitous discovery. Here is a mystery/suspense novel packed with interesting, three-dimensional characters, that takes lesbianism and feminism for granted, and is gripping as well: a rare occurrence in a genre that specializes in light-weight, erotic fluff.

Wilson, who also wrote *Murder in the Collective*, approaches a number of complex women's issues (prostitution, rape, incest) through the sensibilities of Pam Nilsen, her lesbian-feminist, amateur detective protagonist. Pam's adventure begins when she makes a wrong turn on the way home from the airport (after depositing her sister on a plane to Nicaragua to pick coffee beans) and finds herself in the red light district of Seattle. Lost on a side street, she sees two huddled figures approaching her car: Trish and Rosalie. Pam, our astute narrator, quickly sizes them up to be teenage prostitutes. What Pam is not aware of though, is that Rosalie is quietly dying. By the time this fact becomes apparent, and Rosalie is taken to the hospital, it is too late. When Trish disappears from the hospital with Pam's handbag containing the day's deposit from her printing collective, Pam thinks this is a fitting way to end the evening.

However, this brief episode is only the beginning of a series of events that change Pam's life. Trish materializes at the print shop, Best Printing, the next day, and in spite of herself, Pam finds herself letting loose her maternal instincts on the girl. She is drawn to the vulnerable 15-year-old ensconced in lipstick, eye-shadow and painted-on jeans and begins to wonder just what exactly Trish and Rosalie were doing when Rosalie was assaulted. Was she a victim in one of the Green River murders, another of at least 50 unsolved, brutal murders of young women in the Seattle area? Pam is worried about Trish (she could have been seen by the murderer — she could be in danger herself); this and her innate curiosity prompts her to find out more about this mystery girl. She takes Trish out to lunch, buys her a copy of *Jane Eyre* ("She might as well start at the beginning," Pam thinks to herself, p. 29) and invites her home to stay with her. Then Trish disappears again, just when Pam is growing attached to her and feeling her starting to trust. The groundwork is laid for Pam to don her sleuthing shoes.

Pam's search for Trish amounts to nothing less than an obsession. She is meticulous in uncovering every detail of Trish's past life, interviewing social workers, runaways like Trish, other prostitutes and Trish's family members. A pattern emerges concerning the men in Trish's life: they have all victimized her in some way. There is Wayne, a would-be artist, her sometimes pimp and drug dealer. He is also her step-brother and Trish is in love with him. There is her father Art Margolin, who sexually abused her as a



Barbara Wilson

young child and has since "saved" himself through fundamentalist religion. And, there is her step-father, Rob Hemmings, who didn't like her attitude or the competition she presented for her mother's attention, so he beat her black-and-blue into compliance. These are the various men who have helped to shape Trish's life, and Pam thinks any one of them could have been responsible for Rosalie's murder and Trish's disappearance.

Needless to say, one of Wilson's important messages here is an awareness of violence perpetrated by men against women. It is an unbroken thread that runs throughout the narrative. We see women in every manifestation of impotence imaginable, their powerlessness directly related to the men in their life. This ranges from the stereotypical prostitute who is beaten by her pimp for refusing to go back out on the streets, to Trish's own mother who is forced to choose between her husband and daughter — and guess who wins?

The issue of violence against women, however, is only one of many different levels in the novel, and

Wilson, far from slanting her narrative, exposes every side to the issues she raises. In addition to the many weak, used women Wilson portrays, we are also privy to some strong, powerful female characterizations. Pam meets Beth Linda, a social worker (and dyke), and Janis, a lawyer (and dyke), both of whom have their feet firmly on the ground and are living productive, fulfilling lives. In particular Dawn, a career prostitute who has *chosen* this profession and would not make her living another way, lightens the sometimes grim narrative with her opinions on feminism:

"Well, I tell you, I've got a bone to pick with feminists." Her lively expression closed up and she fixed me with an accusing stare. "They could be out there supporting [prostitutes], instead of sitting home writing articles for and against pornography. I've seen some of those articles and I can tell you they practically make me ashamed to call myself a woman. . . . What I want to know is why feminists think they're so much better than we are, why they can't see this from our point of view." (pp. 146-147)

Dawn's point of view is a fresh one, and in portraying her Wilson has shattered some traditional stereotypes of prostitutes. Wilson covers the issue of prostitution from every possible angle, from the disdain of fundamentalist fanatics to the point of view of the women themselves. In the process she manages to get in her digs at self-righteous feminists who have lost sight of what they are actually fighting for in the wake of potentially earth-shattering political implications.

Pam's search for Trish, which exposes her to a portion of society that her PC lesbian existence had shielded her from, changes her conceptions of prostitution and street life. At one point she asks exasperatedly: "What kind of theoretical arguments can you put up against the reality of someone's life?" Her lesbian lawyer friend Janis replies, "You can't. . . . You have to change theory to fit reality." (p. 147). Here is the crux of Wilson's argument, abandoning judgements, for or against, in favor of focus on the women themselves. The result is a mind-broadening sociological expedition as well as a book that is hard to put down.

Gay Male Fiction Comes of Age in Anthology

Continued from Book Review page 2

variation in literary styles is the perspective that many stories in *Men on Men* adopt toward the behavior of their characters. In his introduction Stambolian affirms that "one continuing purpose of gay fiction is to prove . . . that homosexuals do in fact exist, that we speak and judge for ourselves instead of being merely observed and judged by others." Fair enough, but it is noteworthy to what degree most of the stories in the anthology speak more than they judge. "Choice" concerns a character whose behavior in the bars is furtive because of "his fear of rejection and his need to reject." The young narrator of "A Queer Red Spirit" distinguishes between himself and an older gay man by commenting, "I was openly gay and he was just openly swishy." "Maine" begins with the sentence, "Russ, a not-*that*-young-anymore guy, is walking down a dirt road." Here and elsewhere we confront important

insights into how gay males view their own kind. Unsettling in the way they signal barriers and prejudices, these insights are equally unsettling in that the stories that spawn them seem to take these barriers and prejudices in stride, as givens of the subject matter, an attitude which could invite outsiders to produce for us the judgments that are noticeably missing here.

May there exist some feeling among these writers that commentary is an element foreign to the genre? If so, to see that that need not be the case, we have Ethan Mordden's brilliant piece entitled "Hardhats." Ostensibly about a construction worker called Gene, the story proves to be much more of a quiet confrontation between Gene's world and homosexual ways. Now the confrontation is merely interrogative: "Is it possible that there's a man too authentic to be hot?" Now it is direct: "This was a place of sculpted hunks; Gene was lewd. They were practiced; Gene was improvisational." Whatever the phrasing, the perspective does not flinch. If gay male fiction has indeed come of age, let us hope that, following Mordden's example, it will dare to question as well as reveal and become our conscience as well as our voice.

OPEN:
TUES.,
WED.,
FRI.,
SAT.
10-6
THURS.
10-9
SUN.
12-6
CLOSED
MON.

NEW WORDS
A WOMEN'S BOOKSTORE

- BOOKS
- FEMINIST PRESSES
- JOURNALS
- RECORDS
- T-SHIRTS
- POSTERS
- CARDS
- NON-SEXIST CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

186
HAMPSHIRE STREET
INMAN SQUARE
CAMBRIDGE, MA. 02139

(617) 876-5310

NEW WORDS
A WOMEN'S BOOKSTORE

YES - THERE IS A
BETTER WAY TO FIND
NEW FRIENDS OR A
RELATIONSHIP.

617 - 723-2021

CONNECTION, Ltd.

NEW ENGLAND'S ONLY GAY
OWNED AND STAFFED
Dating service for *Sincere*
people looking for *Honest*
Friendships or a Relationship
in the future.

"The James White Review's editors and their contributors together are producing a valuable contribution not only to the American literary scene, but to our self-affirmation and eventual survival as a people."
Gay Community News

The James White Review
a gay men's literary quarterly

Annual subscription: \$8 (USA)
\$14, two years \$13 (Foreign)
Sample issue: \$2 \$10 (Institution)

The James White Review
PO Box 3356, Traffic Station
Minneapolis, MN 55403

BOOK

GAY COMMUNITY NEWS

SHORTS

BOOK

GAY COMMUNITY NEWS

SHORTS

BOOK

GAY COMMUNITY NEWS

SHORTS

BOOK

GAY COMMUNITY NEWS

SHORTS

Wendell

Howard Cruse
The Gay Presses of New York
\$9.95

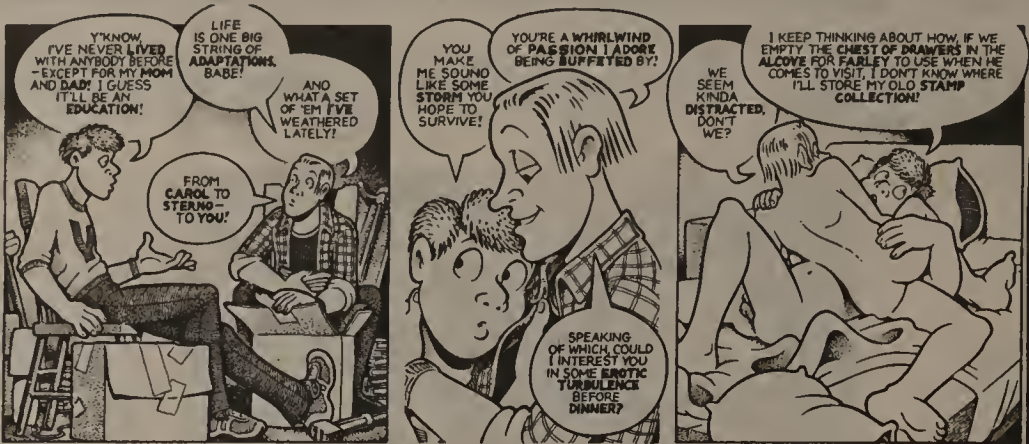
Somewhere in the past four years life began to resemble a cartoon. Not a ha-ha cartoon, nor an escapist cartoon, nor a political rectangle with a message that will be understood in direct proportion to how many episodes of "All Things Considered" one has heard. No, life began to resemble Howard Cruse's *Wendell*.

True, it may be the other way around. I don't know. I do know that in the first complete cartoon in this delightful book Wendell and his lifemate Ollie are in the supermarket. Wendell is in the mood for cornflakes — but all the packages say the contents are for "people with wholesome family values." Finally they find a box of corn flakes "for people who are open to PLURALISM in SEXUAL ORIENTATIONS and LIFESTYLES." Of course the flakes cost twice as much, and of course they buy them — or are about to when Ollie reads the small print and finds out that the cereal manufacturers have the wrong position on nuclear disarmament.

Then there's the time Wendell's mother puts an erotic gay ad in Wendell's "favorite intellectual gay journal" to get her son home to dinner — in bondage. Wendell, stark naked and tied to a chair, is spoonfed by his mother while his father asks, "So how are things these days in the SEXUAL NETHERWORLD, Son?"

On a different but no less poignant occasion Wendell is tied up by his lover and the doorbell rings. Christians are at the door, and while they push their drug of faith on Ollie, the phone rings and the plumber arrives. The latter says, "Say, you're all TRUSSED UP like there was a CRIME going on!" and the phone call is from "Miss Simpson" of Consumer Surveys; both she and the plumber turn out to be writers filling dull jobs until their novels are finished.

Anyone familiar with Wendell or with Cruse's work in *Gay Comix*, which he founded in 1980, knows that his work goes far beyond sexual kinks and humor. Two of the most wonderful cartoon sequences in this book have to do with a trip to the baths during the AIDS years, and Wendell and his friend Deb's efforts as co-chairpersons of a lesbian and gay committee. With his ear for absurdity and his shitload of compassion, Howard Cruse does for us in cartoons what Armistead Maupin does for us in serial



From *Wendell* by Howard Cruse

installments. *Wendell*, like *Tales of the City*, comes closer to (at least) the male side of gay experience than any work by literary heavies like Edmund White or David Leavitt. Wendell wouldn't know what to do in a rarefied atmosphere. He chokes on the air we must all breath.

— *Walt Borawski*

What Comes Naturally

Gerd Brantenberg
The Women's Press, London, 1986
\$6.95, paper, 112 pp.

Gerd Brantenberg's probably autobiographical romp through a Norwegian woman's early years as a lesbian is charming, laugh-out-loud reading that's punctuated with evocative glimpses of the author's sensitivity, anger and pain. It's a combination that works because of the honesty and richness of language with which the book is written.

What Comes Naturally is written to a visitor whom the narrator has invited to her home to teach him "the science of lesbianism." When she addresses her guest, Brantenberg's tone is sarcastic and often angry, taunting: "I want you to think, I want you to become a little less stupid than you are, I don't want you to look inside my bowels. And anyway, how do you know I'm not just telling you a pack of lies?" (p. 23)

Brantenberg gives us a fly-on-the-wall perspective of the relationship with her "first mistress... but is there really such a thing as a neutral expression for a woman?", who became "more and more nose" as the romance wore on and out; of their discovery of the Norwegian Society of 1948, the only "organization for homosexuals" at the time; and of her subsequent stormy but fun love affairs, recounted as a close friend would, with an undercurrent of giggles and inevitable denouement.

In the second half of the book, the author describes her activism at the University of Oslo; meeting her true love with whom she soon settles in; and shares with us her very strong, sensible reasons for coming out, staying out, and proudly living her life as a lesbian. "It was not because of some political consciousness of a better world, or some belief in anarchism, feminism or a communist revolution, that I finally came out as a lesbian. It was because I couldn't stand lying." (p. 105) She enunciates in plain, from-the-heart language what we have all felt and will feel as social renegades: the importance of lesbian communities because "...nowhere else did

we find mirrors of our own selves," and of the innate fear men have of lesbians because they are women "...doing *it* on their own." (p. 103)

What Comes Naturally is an important book for new lesbians and long-out lesbians, gay men, and straight men and women. For queer readers, Brantenberg's excitement about coming out and her anger at mainstream society are poignantly sensed; for non-queers, she provides important explanations of why she's out and angry, and sometimes exquisitely happy.

In the book's acknowledgement, Brantenberg explains that this, her first novel, was written in secrecy. Perhaps this accounts for the tone of confidentiality and one-to-one intimacy I felt while reading. Perhaps it also explains the feeling of restrained screaming for joy or rage that characterizes the early chapters — a feeling with which every queer reader can identify.

— *Linda Burnett*

Teardrops On My Drum

Jack Robinson
Gay Men's Press, London, 1986
\$7.50 (paper), 173 pp.

This autobiographical novel chronicles the last years of the author's school days in Liverpool and the beginning of his military training at Woolwich. The time is the 1920s; Robinson is in his early teens. His story offers the reader a series of powerful and complex subjects, such as man-boy love, gender-specific roles in gay sex, and the day-to-day trauma of growing up in an atmosphere of poverty and alcoholism. That last dimension of *Teardrops* has been very carefully executed. The sounds and smells of Liverpool often become only too real, charting the city's gradual evolution from a Victorian world to the realities of the twentieth century. Indeed, for the sociologically minded, this book contains a number of descriptions that merit special examination.

For the rest of us, however, *Teardrops* will, I fear, be a disappointment. Not only does the book fail to explore any of the gay issues it touches upon, it actually turns away from them and makes of homosexuality a wondrous world where Jackie can always find escape: "Everything is wonderful! I do not see the big ugly boots, the drab canvas suits and the rough woolen long-johns. I do not hear the harsh voices of the drill instructors, nor do I feel the aches and pains in the muscles of my body. I do not see the sweat and tears, for I am blinded by the dazzling beauty of my young companions." Here Jackie is already at Woolwich but the pattern has been present from the start.

Almost without exception, every man and boy Jackie meets desires only to protect, love, and nourish him. Just once is he "bummed"

against his will. The event inspires some momentary sadness, but nothing more, perhaps because, in this story, merely wishing for the right person makes it happen. He turns down a clothing salesman because he wants a boy his own age (P. 120, l. 5). He sits down in the Woolworth cafeteria and finds his boy (p. 120, l. 17).

Autobiography has always been a tricky genre and *Teardrops On My Drum* points out at least one of its pitfalls. Perhaps set against the harsh fact of uncaring, alcoholic parents, the sex partners Jackie encountered did appear all wondrous and beautiful; perhaps, by a lucky twist of fate, they were all wondrous and beautiful. But truth, whether naked or dazzling, often needs more than just itself to convince the reader. And in a work that knows how to translate so fully the foulness of gutter life, the "truth" of Jackie's sexual bliss reads even more like the stuff of tired fiction.

— *Donald Stone*

Silverglass

J.F. Rivkin
Ace Fantasy Books, New York, 1986
\$2.95 paper, 186 pp.

In its author's words, *Silverglass* is a "bisexual, feminist fantasy" set in what approximates medieval or feudal times. Corson, a tall and gorgeous mercenary with "skin of a warm, rich gold," is hired by Nyctasia, a sorceress in exile who is hunted by the two families who have historically vied to rule the city-state of Rhostshyl. Corson is slow to trust the diminutive Nyctasia, but we can tell that the mercenary becomes charmed — Corson takes to calling Nyctasia "Nyc" after a while — and would gladly die protecting her mistress.

As the two women journey from Rhostshyl to far-off Hlavsén, where Nyc's long-time lover — a man — awaits her, they pull off a series of narrow escapes, taking turns saving each other through force and swordswoman-ship or sorcery. And occasionally along the way, they make love. Rivkin's descriptions of their intimate encounters cover only the first moments of physical contact, then stop as the scene goes dark, the chapter closes, and the reader is left gasping for more: "Nyctasia put her arms around Corson's neck and started unpinning the long braid. 'Don't you know, a witch whose passions are aroused may turn into a ravening demon?' 'Oh, hold your tongue for once!' Corson exclaimed, and silenced her with a long, fierce kiss." (p. 99)

A refreshing and faithfully maintained background element to this tale is the totally non-sexist society in which it takes place. Several times I was caught off-guard, assuming, for instance, that a sentry was a man or a cook was a woman, then reading on to find pronouns opposite to those I had expected. After a while the reader gets used to it, though, and that's when one begins to get truly wrapped up in the fantasy. Physical power and ability are also totally gender-irrelevant.

As a person who had not previously gone in for fantasy or s/f, I surprised myself by regretting to see this quick-moving book draw to a close, and then was delighted to read on the publisher's promotional sheet that *Silverglass* is only "Number one in the Corson and Nyctasia series." I haven't looked forward to a sequel this impatiently since I read my first Nancy Drew!

— *Linda Burnett*

YOU COULD BE READING...

The Women's Review of Books

Published every month since October 1983.

A forum for the widest range of feminist thinking and writing on every topic.

A source of information and informed opinion that more and more readers are coming to find indispensable.

Recent reviews by Patricia Bell-Scott, Jessie Bernard, E.M. Broner, Z. Budapest, Blanche Wiesen Cook, Marilyn Frye, Vivian Gornick, Carolyn Heilbrun, Jane Marcus, Valerie Miner, Julia Penelope, Hortense Spillers and many more...

To subscribe:

Send \$14 (Individuals) or \$25 (Institutions) to: Dept. EX, **The Women's Review of Books**, Wellesley College Center for Research on Women, Wellesley, MA 02181-8255. (Outside the US: **Please add** \$18 airmail, \$5 surface mail; Canadian subscribers only add \$3.)

Please make all payments in US dollars, by check or money order, to **The Women's Review of Books**. Allow 6-8 weeks for all subscription transactions.

Free sample copy available on request.

THIRD EDITION!



For gay men and lesbians, their families and friends, **The Whole Gay Catalog** brings the world of lesbian and gay literature as close as your telephone or mailbox. Offers **BOOKS**, plus **VIDEOS, RECORDS & TAPES, GIFTS**, and more! Over 100 pages, indexed. **ORDER YOURS NOW! FROM THE WORLD'S LEADING GAY AND LESBIAN BOOKSTORE!**

..... (Discreetly Packaged)

I enclose \$2. Please send my copy of **The Whole Gay Catalog**.

Mail to: **Lambda Rising, Dept. 157**
1625 Connecticut, NW, Wash., DC 20009

Name _____

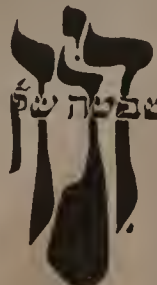
Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

THE TRIBE OF DINA:

A JEWISH WOMEN'S ANTHOLOGY

EDITED BY MELANIE KAYE KANTROWITZ
IRENA KLEPFISZ



ISBN 0 931103 02 9 • 1986

336 pp. \$995 • Add \$1.25/postage

SINISTER WISDOM BOOKS
p.o. box 1308j • Montpelier, VT 05602

BUDDENBROOKS

BACK BAY BOOKSMITH

Boston's only complete bookstore.

Boston's finest selection of current and backlist titles, fine and rare antiquarian books, remainders, out-of-print books.

753 Boylston • 536-4433

Your Ad Could Be HERE

Working For You!

Call 617/426-4469

Home in Your Hands

Lee Lynch
Naiad Press, Tallahassee, FL, 1986
\$7.95, 226 pp.

Romance exists in the world, in Lee Lynch's world. Changing like the autumn leaves, tentative as spring creeping through the winter chill, old feelings in young women, new, startling emotions in senior citizens. *Home In Your Hands* is a collection of short stories which intertwine, continue, and eventually place all their characters in the same universe. It's a lovely place to be.

Yes, these women live in the real world. No better than human, their indecision, alcoholism, infidelity, and other problems take their toll. But each grief is balanced by love. The lovers *care* about each other. Even the supporting characters are passionate in their beliefs. The cities, the seasons are strong, beautifully limned. Lynch never leaves her characters existing in a vacuum. There is a very real sense of here and now. But these women, and their relationships, are the focus, and she never forgets that, either.

As the stories move from one to another, the characters change and grow. New characters meet old characters meet newer ones still. But it is strongly recommended to read these stories in order, and not skip through. It's not giving away too much to say that Lynch believes in happy — ah, not *endings* — happy continuances of life. The belief that people *can* control their own lives, that the only sin is to waste your life — and with love, all things are possible.

If you enjoy these stories, you'll be glad to know that some of these characters, and others just as interesting to know, appear in Lynch's three previous books, *Toothpick House*, *Old Dyke Tales* and *The Swashbuckler*. You won't soon forget these people, and their stories. and with all the aggravations and heartaches that they — and we — encounter every day, the image I hold in my mind is that of two women, new lovers, dancing the night away, till the band played "Goodnight, Irene." This book won't change your life. But it makes you feel glad there is still romance in the world.

— Jan R. Fielding



Lee Lynch

The Little Death

Michael Nava
Alyson Publications, Boston, 1986
\$9.95, 168 pp.

Henry Rios is a young-ish lawyer, gay, fed up with his law firm job in San Francisco. Hugh Paris is a wealthy ne'er-do-well, gay who suspects someone in his family is out to get him. A chance meeting at the local hoosegow bring these two together and set the wheels turning in this new mystery by Michael Nava.

The Little Death is a murder mystery slavishly faithful to the genre. When Hugh tries to tell Henry that his grandfather would like to see him six feet under, Henry is skeptical and asks why:

"Money. I have certain rights to the family fortune. My grandfather would like to extinguish them."

"You mean with some legal action?"

"No," he replied softly. "I mean murder."

Classic.

Although *The Little Death* will probably not get the Pulitzer this year, it is an entertain-

ing little book with enough realism to make you press on. Nava convincingly sets up his scenario and then provides enough plot twists to satisfy even the most jaded Ellery Queen devotee. And though his characters are gay, their homosexuality it the least of their problems. Henry must cope with his disillusionment with the legal world; Hugh must cope with dirty dealings thrust on him by his birth into a rich, eccentric family. The conflicts are standard: old money versus new, vaguely criminal deeds which must be hushed up, disaffected and distant family members squabbling and conniving in ways that would make Machiavelli proud.

Now that gay people have gay banks, gay dry-cleaners, gay movies, gay services of all kinds, it would seem inevitable that there would arise gay crusaders. Although crime fiction seems an especially macho preserve, Nava's Henry Rios is not without precedents. While Rios is no Equalizer, the relationship he enjoys with Hugh Paris echoes Raymond Chandler's *The Long Goodbye*. And super-sleuths are not all guns and muscle: *The Thin Man* introduced Nick and Nora Charles to the world in the late Twenties and proved that crime solvers can be witty, wealthy and regularly intoxicated. And who knows? Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple were both into retirement age, maybe soon we will see a pair of retired gay men snooping around deserted mansions and spooky graveyards.

In his crusade for truth and justice, Henry Rios is not alone. John Preston's well-known Alex Kane has trooped around the country righting wrongs for years now. (The entire series is available from Alyson Publications.) And, most improbably, Samuel M. Steward has recently written *Murder is Murder is Murder*, in which none other than Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas go schlepping around the French countryside to ferret out the "father of their handsome gardener," who has disappeared like so much brie at a gallery opening.

This plethora of gay characters in any and all situations can only be a good thing. It parallels the current rebellion against gay stereotyping now taking place — art imitating life, as it were. Just as it should be inconceivable that a gay person couldn't be in a certain profession (for example, nobody can now say that athletes are too "macho" to be gay), it should be inconceivable that gay literature should veer between the sappy and the angst-ridden. For far too long the vast majority of gay fiction has dwelled on laughably romantic fiction or slightly psychotic, tortured individuals driven, inevitably, to suicide.

Viva Henry Rios!

— Robert Storen

Hear the Silence: Stories by Women of Myth, Magic and Renewal

Irene Zahava, editor
The Crossing Press, Trumansburg, NY, 1986
\$8.95, 194 pp.

Worlds Apart: An anthology of lesbian and gay science fiction and fantasy
Camilla Decarnin, Eric Garber and Lyn Paleo, editors
Alyson Publications, Boston, 1986
\$7.95, 293 pp.

Spirituality and science fiction oft times try to envision utopian worlds. These two collections of short stories have more in common than one might think, and in fact, some of the stories would fit well in either collection.

The editor of *Hear the Silence*, Irene Zahava, chose as her mission a book that would "convey a sense of the innumerable ways spiritual awareness operates in our lives — even if those aren't the words we use to describe our own experiences." The collection achieves this through futuristic stories from Merlin Stone's "The Plasting Project" to Becky Birtha's here-and-now stories of little girls or bus drivers.

Almost all the stories have memorable lines or surprises; a few stand out such as Ursula Le Guin's "She Unnames Them" and Kitty Tsui's "Why The Sea is Salty" and Judith Stein's "Why The Moon is Small and Dark When the Sun is Big and Shiny." These last



From the Cover of *Hear the Silence*

two are poetic tales begging to be read aloud. They represent the Asian-American and Jewish traditions as other stories represent Native American, Baptist, meditation, regular church-going and diverse Christian traditions. Deena Metzger's "The Tree on the Mountain" combines both the past and the present in the story of one woman possessed by the burden, or heritage, of the original, biblical Dinah.

Because the aim of the editor of *Hear the Silence* was to collect spiritual stories that would appeal to women of diverse spiritual interests (through meditation, goddess worship, women-centered rituals, etc.) she kept a broad focus. And while the stories are uneven and the contents so different, they are also provocative and lead the reader to think about the meaning of spirituality, or worship, on our daily lives.

Worlds Apart is a more consistent volume in that the stories are, expectedly, futuristic and/or fantasy. The content of the stories is more overtly homosexual than those in *Hear the Silence* but then that is the focus of the collection. On the other hand, writing about homosexuality isn't the only point of the stories; instead, it is almost peripheral to some of the action. This is a welcome view of the world however unfamiliar it may be.

Science fiction and fantasy can take place in the past, present or future. "Houston, Houston Do You Read" by James Tiptree, Jr. takes place in both the present and the future. It is the story of a lost space mission to the sun that returns one year later. It's also three hundred years later. This story kept me in suspense, another unexpected result. Edgar Pangorn's "Harper Conan and Singer David," while predictable, was also touching. It too takes place in the future with its references to the Hudson Sea, Vairmant, Conicut, and Bershar mountain land and Old Time when there were doctors and generators and electricity.

Some of the contributors are well-known, some have reputations for being gay, some do not. Jewelle Gomez's story of a vampire, part of a larger, forthcoming work, is a surprising and welcome entry. More familiar to the reader is Marion Zimmer Bradley's contribution, an excerpt from her Darkover series and Elizabeth Lynn with her Goddess worship story "The Gods of Reorth."

The science fiction anthology, with its narrower focus, is the more interesting of the two collections; it asks less of the reader. However, as there are stories that could be in either book, together they present a fascinating look at our varied view of what is right, and wrong, with the way we live today.

— Diane Hamer

The Plague Years: A Chronicle of AIDS, the Epidemic of Our Times
David Black
Simon and Schuster, New York, 1986
\$16.95, 224 pp.

What is amazing about David Black's *The Plague Years* is not that it is offensive, exploitative and ill-informed — subjects like AIDS always bring that sort of scum to the top of the publishing pot — but that it is being packaged and treated with such respect by its publishers and the critics. Originally a series of essays in *Rolling Stone*, *The Plague*

Years is gonzo journalism at its worst. That this book won the National Association of Science Writers award for Journalism shows us only how much further the straight press has to come in dealing with AIDS.

As a heterosexual writer, Black feels that he can be more objective about "gay life": this means that he be upfront about his dislike of homosexuals and then call it honesty. Almost all of the descriptions of gay men, life, or sex in *The Plague Years* reeks of voyeurism and is tinged with disgust. There is no sympathy, or empathy, for any gay person who has to deal with AIDS. But beyond that Black indulges in the most crackpot metaphysical speculations. He insists that AIDS may be what happens when humans explore the deepest, most mysterious parts of themselves: breaking taboos. This is why, according to the Black, that orgiastic sexuality and voodoo have brought AIDS respectively into the gay and Haitian communities.

The Plague Years is riddled with misspellings of names, wrong dates and other minor inaccuracies. It is also offensively simplistic and outrageously homophobic.

— Michael Bronski

Behind A Mask: the unknown thrillers of Louisa May Alcott

With an introduction by Madeleine Stern, editor
Morrow, New York, 1975
\$7.95, paperback, 277 pp.

We all know Louisa May Alcott from *Little Women*, and the books which followed in this series. In fact, one of the most popular genres of her day was not "family reading," but Gothic "thrillers." These not only brought poor working men and women away from their dreary lives, they also helped soldiers on the battlefield escape from pain and drudgery to glamorous resorts, tropical clubs and fascinating people scheming and plotting. Meanwhile, the good, helpless heroine waited for the noble hero to rescue her from the evil (male) villain.

In this milieu, it took not only courage but imagination to have a woman as the book's protagonist — even antagonist — to conceive of the idea that a woman could be strong, intelligent, scheming or evil — *and win!* And make the audience love it. *Behind A Mask* is a collection of four short novels with just this kind of character. Each has the requisite glamorous surroundings, English nobility, and intricate plots — but most of all, fascinating characters who transcend their stereotypes. The heroine does not, after all, always win. She's not always a sympathetic character. But she never waits for the primary male character to ride along and change her life. These people are passionate, and whether they physically act or not, they have a deeply held feelings, and live their lives as their emotions rule them.

This collection is enhanced by an excellent introduction by the editor, Madeleine Stern. This is a fascinating reading in itself. So if you secretly prefer Alexis Colby to boring Beth March, read *Behind A Mask*, for some very proper settings with some very *improper* heroines.

— Jan R. Fielding

BOOK
GAY COMMUNITY NEWS
SHORTS

BOOK
GAY COMMUNITY NEWS
SHORTS

BOOK
GAY COMMUNITY NEWS
SHORTS

BOOK
GAY COMMUNITY NEWS
SHORTS

Women Take Back the Sexual Revolution

Re-Making Love: The Feminization of Sex

Barbara Ehrenreich, Elizabeth Hess,
and Gloria Jacobs
Anchor Press/Doubleday, New York, 1986
\$15.95 cloth, 228 pp.

Reviewed by Ellen Herman

Re-Making Love is about women reclaiming the changes in our sexual culture during the past twenty-five years. As their starting (and ending) point, the authors point out that both critics and advocates of "the sexual revolution" have generally ignored its meaning for women, drawing attention to wife-swapping and Playboy bunnies instead. *Re-Making Love*, however, insists that the physical experience of sex has changed far more dramatically for women than it has for men.

It is not only that women came to have more sex and with greater variety of partners, but they were having it on their own terms. (p. 2)

On their own terms? Well, sometimes. The problem, according to the authors, is that sexual liberation has somehow come unglued from women's liberation (i.e. economic and political equality). As a result, women have been more successful on the frontier of "orgasm equity" than we have been in getting equal pay from employers or a little help around the kitchen from men. The solution is for feminists to put sex back on the agenda.

This determined effort to prove that the sexual revolution was really a good thing for women after all frankly examines "the cultural mainstream — not the avant-garde and not the brave members of sexual minority groups." (p.4) This choice (and the authors would be the first to admit it) makes heterosexual women the main subject of the book as well as of the sexual revolution. *Re-Making Love's* concern with American mass culture (i.e. garden variety heterosexuality) ends up overlooking the many feminists (frequently lesbians) and gay men who never did let sex slide off the agenda, as well as overemphasizing positive changes in some pretty questionable places, including the fundamentalist right.

Asserting a *women's* sexual revolution is an antidote to the sexist bias that is evident when analysts consider women as passive victims of sweeping social changes, including changes demanded by women in the first place. *Re-Making Love* insists on putting women back into the sexual revolution as actors — not just reactors — and the result is usually very insightful.

The dynamics of causing and reacting to social changes are rarely simple, however. There is a big difference between a feminist sexual revolution (which would indeed re-make love) and the manipulation of women's subordination to make it a little sexier, a little

kinkier, a little easier to bear. One can argue, as the authors of this book do, that Maribel Morgan's *Total Woman* gave fundamentalist women permission to demand sexual pleasure, but that hardly adds up to a feminist sexual revolution. If the sexual status quo on the right had really been shaken up, why aren't all those total women turning off the "700 Club" and buying subscriptions to *Ms.* instead? If right-wing women have changed their behavior in the bedroom, it illustrates not only that the feminist critique of sex was a powerful one, but that sexual reforms can be co-opted just as easily as other kinds of reforms. Fundamentalist sex manuals like *Celebration in the Bedroom* only prove the authors' point that re-making love must be part of re-making the entire female experience.

This short but interesting book takes readers from the 1950s to the 1980s. It begins with the waning of the feminine mystique, and surveys the phenomenon of Beatlemania as a sort of mass sexual sigh emanating from teenage female culture, an early warning signal of changes to come. With enough exposure to rock and roll, female sexuality moved from the repression of shrieking at stars to the excitement of "go[ing] all the way with any accessible rock musician." (p.37) By the end of the 1960s, girls could even imagine being stars themselves — *having* groupies rather than *being* groupies, thanks in large part to Janice Joplin.

Re-Making Love identifies consumerism as the

major positive force behind the feminization of sex, beginning with the consumption of birth control technology and the growth of a youth culture which required members to wear certain clothes and own certain records. Purchasing power can buy the trappings of an "oppositional identity," most obvious in the props necessary for sadomasochism but also evident in the consumption necessary to a wide variety of "lifestyles."

Having some money and a room of one's own are crucial if women are to make independent choices about their own lives. But the "choices" that the marketplace offers represent a non-feminist vision of female sexuality at best: this or that type of unhealthy birth control, this or that type of sexist pornography, sex toys that assume heterosexuality. At worst, the marketplace serves to enforce women's sexual oppression.

The development and legitimation of sexology as a profession has been another factor in the feminization of sex. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, the Kinsey reports documented the shocking pervasiveness of extra-marital affairs and non-traditional sexual practices, focusing public attention on "the orgasm." Later, Masters and Johnson pushed the revolution a step further by "discovering" the clitoris.

Finally, there was something that women could *do*

Continued on Book Review page 8

Lesbian Scripts Debut in the Footlights

Continued from Book Review page 2

Harriet may have found security as Frank's wife, but she hasn't found happiness or fulfillment. Unfortunately she can't overcome her oppressive need to force her daughter to follow in her footsteps.

Going Up, by Julia Willis of the former Ends and Means Committee, a comedy trio, is a humorous skit about two women trapped in an elevator. Anita is a conservative wife and mother type who is prone to hysterics. Marie is sort of . . . unconventional, actually a pretty good person to get stuck in an elevator with, only Anita is too freaked out to notice. Marie is conversational, practical and (ohmygod!) a lesbian. I saw *Going Up* performed about six years ago and thought it was a wonderful thing to present to mixed (gay and straight) audiences — just the sort of put-down of homophobia that could be effective and entertaining. Reading it now I wondered if Anita's panic might seem a little dated. "You won't attack me will you?" she blurts out after finding out why Marie is unmarried. Otherwise it's still a fun little piece.

Out of Bounds, a one-act by Mariah Burton Nelson, associate editor of *Women's Sports and Fitness Magazine*, takes place in a locker room after the big game. Rita enters and finds Emily cleaning out her locker while everyone else has gone on to the victory party. Rita doesn't feel much like celebrating — she's trying to sort out her future and her feelings for Emily. In the dialog, Nelson captures the excitement of athletic competition as well as the awkwardness be-

tween the two women when they try to express their fondness for one another. *Out of Bounds* is a subtle, well written little play that covers a lot of ground. It's also the only play in this collection which calls for casting Black actors.

I didn't appreciate the last play in the collection at all the first time I read it. *Soup* by Ellen Gruber Garvey takes place in a kitchen (maybe in Northampton). The characters Nan and Michelle were hard to keep straight and the emotional ambivalence between them was annoying. Briefly, Michelle comes to visit after seeing her mother. Nan is making soup. They are both Jewish and lovers, although they seem to be having problems. Nan gets on Michelle's back about not coming out to her parents and Nan tells an old tale her Aunt Riesel used to tell about buying chickens. Michelle doesn't like how the story ends and abruptly leaves. I'm not sure why. The second time I appreciated the dialog somewhat but still felt I was missing something when I got to the ending. This may be one of those plays that just doesn't read well.

It's hard to get a feel for some plays by just reading the script. Now that this collection is available, I'd like to see each one performed. If any of you out there are looking for a lesbian play, this is a good place to start. McDermott hopes to bring out a second volume and she is particularly interested in including plays by lesbians of color. Kate McDermott can be reached through her publisher, Spinsters/Aunt Lute in San Francisco.

VIDA K. BERKOWITZ
ATTORNEY AT LAW
In Practice Since 1975

Family Law

- *Custody Issues
- *Relationship Agreements
- *Estate Planning

General Practice

- *Employment Rights
- *Personal Injury
- *Landlord/Tenant

52 Western Ave., Camb., MA 02139 (617)876-7099

WARD & LUND ATTORNEYS AT LAW

John P. Ward, David R. Lund
Janice Platner, Barbara J. Macy
Gerry Azzata

- Criminal Defense
- Real Estate Transactions
- Domestic Relations
- Disermination
- Probate of Estates
- Defense of Drunk Drivers

- Estate Planning
- Business Representation
- Relationship Agreements
- Civil Litigation
- General Practice of Law
- Condominium Conversion

529 Newbury Street
Boston, MA 02115
617-266-0760

2266 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94114
415-626-4224

DIC

DAVID L. COLLINS, C.L.U.

Insurance for all your needs

Suite 830
50 Congress St.
Boston, MA 02109

Orleans/Bewster
Office Park
E. Orleans, MA 02643
255-2600

Call Toll Free 1-800-352-3185



634 MASS. AVE., CAMBRIDGE
491-4110

LET US HELP
YOU PREPARE

RESUMES, NEWSLETTERS,
BROCHURES, BOOKS, TABLOIDS, CAMPAIGN LITERATURE,
CONFERENCE LITERATURE, FORMS, FLYERS, MENUS, RATE CARDS,
ANNUAL REPORTS, LETTERHEADS, ENVELOPES, BUSINESS CARDS,
ANNOUNCEMENTS, ETC.

DESIGN
PRINTING
TYPESETTING
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

LOOKING AT USED CARS ?

Before buying one, bring it to us for a complete evaluation. \$20. for 4 or 6 cylinder cars — \$5. extra for V-8, van or A/C (with this ad). If you would like a woman mechanic to work on your car, please say so when you make your appointment.

J. & S. AUTOMOTIVE
277 Northampton Street
267-0300

GENERAL DENTISTRY

JOHN C. BARNA, DMD
AMY D. WETTER, R.D.H

790 BOYLSTON STREET
10 FAIRFIELD PLAZA
BOSTON, MA 02199
(617)353-1500

BOOK
GAY COMMUNITY NEWS
REVIEW

BOOK
GAY COMMUNITY NEWS
REVIEW

BOOK
GAY COMMUNITY NEWS
REVIEW

BOOK
GAY COMMUNITY NEWS
REVIEW

Like Son, Like Father, . . . Like a First Novel

The Lost Language of Cranes

David Leavitt
Alfred A. Knopf, New York, 1986
\$17.95, 319 pp.

Reviewed by Robin Lippincott

David Leavitt's first book, *Family Dancing*, was a highly praised collection of short stories. That Leavitt was only 23 at the time was news in the literary world. Also of note was the gay content of several of the stories, stories that transcended the genre of gay male fiction, and that were published in such unlikely places as *The New Yorker*. And Leavitt was out! Here was a young, talented, gay male writer worth watching.

Though *Family Dancing* had gay content, it remained rooted in the straight world. But *The Lost Language of Cranes*, Leavitt's eagerly awaited first novel, is situated in gay life, filtered through a gay sensibility, and pivots around a prismatic coming out. It is truly a coming-out novel, but reaches far beyond that.

The story centers around a white, middle-class New York City family in crisis. Rose and Owen Benjamin have received word that the apartment building they have lived in for 21 years is going co-op, and they can't afford to buy. But this, as we soon learn, is the least of their worries.

Philip Benjamin's naive image of his parents is of the two of them sitting across the room from one another in twin La-Z-Rockers, reading. It is an image that says more about Philip than his parents. Philip, 25, is an unabashed romantic. He is also gay. "Philip longed for passion and romantic gestures . . . but somehow the men he slept with found the idea of being loved by him laughable." Philip is the novel's romantic hero who, through his relationship with Eliot, receives his sentimental education and matures. Also, out of his zeal for and belief in this new love, Philip decides to come out to his parents, a coming out which sets in motion a series of other, far more disturbing revelations.

Owen Benjamin, for the past 15 years, has been frequenting gay male porno theaters. Like the son he has been trying to protect (by not coming out), he too is gay, and has become unable to suppress his desire for men. Somewhere in the back of her mind, Rose has guessed Owen's secret, but she has fought against admitting it or talking about it. Philip's coming out forces the issue, and Rose takes out her pent-up fury on her son:

"We all have secrets, Philip. I have secrets, lots of secrets . . . Does that mean they all have to be revealed? . . . Keeping certain secrets secret is important to the general balance of life, the common utility."

Later, in a wonderful interior monologue expressing her misplaced anger at Philip, "She could not look him in the face without wanting to slap him," Leavitt writes. "He had to tell everyone;" Rose thinks, "he had to break open that door in their lives which they would have been far happier having kept shut."

As in *Family Dancing*, it is the women who are the most believable, the most fully realized. Rose is a wonderful character. At 52, she is described as "handsome" by other men; intelligent, tough, complex, she works as a copy editor, and figures acrostic puzzles when she is tense: "It was an instinct to put the world in order that powered her."

Also well-sketched is Jerene, Eliot's roommate, a six-foot tall Black lesbian. Much to the book's detriment, Jerene simply fades out, more than 50 pages before its end. It is Jerene, a philosophy student concerned with language, who provides the book's title. In a text Jerene discovers the story of Michel, the Crane-child, the son of a retarded teenager living in an old tenement next to a construction sites. Neglected by his mother, Michel identifies with the giant crane outside his window. Eventually discovered by authorities, Michel is found to move and make noises like a crane, and to respond only to cranes. "For each, in his own way," Jerene thinks, "finds what it is he must love, and loves it; the window becomes a mirror; whatever it is that we love, that is who we are." Despite its poetry, this passage is stilted and self-conscious, and the title, supposedly a metaphor for all of the novel's characters, especially those who are gay, is — finally — reductive.

The men are not fleshed out nearly as well as the women. Owen is all abstract longing and abstract despair; we have no sense of the real, particular man. We are told that he has thick, graying, close-cropped hair and that he is tall and gangly, but we cannot see him because we do not know his heart and mind.

Philip, too, fails to come clear. Leavitt has been quoted as saying of Philip, defensively, "the character who is closest to the author is probably the haziest because the author is not able to see himself with the same clarity." It is no wonder then, that in the novel's climactic scene, when Owen has left Rose and comes out to Philip (which Leavitt so carefully sets up), that this potent, long-awaited scene is disappointing. We don't hear the voices of gay father and gay son, only the voice



David Leavitt

of the author. Thus we are deprived of the rich cathartic experience Leavitt has promised.

Despite the many crises and the troubled New York City backdrop, the world that David Leavitt presents in *The Lost Language of Cranes* is sentimental, safe, and retrograde. Most of the novel's cultural references (I counted 11) are to television shows. Comfort and safety are of the highest value:

And yet he [Philip] could not deny that he could imagine no more pleasurable life than the kind led within the cozy confines of a half-hour situation comedy, that he really wanted each day in his life to collapse into a neat dot of light . . .

Leavitt seems somewhat uncomfortable and apologetic with his sexuality, and doesn't have an easy time with sex. Again and again he waxes lyrical, church-bells ring or the scene changes, fades out. Semen is

Continued on Book Review page 8

A Dickson Christmas Carol
by
DICKSON BROS.
26 Brattle St • Cambridge • 876-6764
Hardware & Houseware
for the Holidays
Validated parking at University Place

Alone?
Are you alone by choice or lack of choices? ComQuest has provided thousands of gay men with a safe, effective way of meeting compatible friends and partners.
— No fees exceed \$30 —
For a free information packet call . . .
ComQuest™
800-633-6969

**Tell 'em
you saw
their ad
in GCN!**

(BOSTON'S BEST MUSICAL)
"AS INTOXICATING AS EVER!"
—Arthur Friedman, Boston Herald
"HILARIOUS!"
—John Engstrom, Boston Globe
FORBIDDEN BROADWAY 1986
"PUNCH, PIZZAZZ, SMASHING NEW MATERIAL!"
—Joyce Kulhawik, WBZ-TV
"FABULOUS . . . WELL WORTH A SECOND VISIT! GET THEE TO THIS PARODY!"
—Lisa Karlin, WCVB-TV
"A WICKED DELIGHT!"
—Kevin Kelly, Boston Globe
357-8384
THE TERRACE ROOM
AT THE BOSTON PARK PLAZA

The Holidays Are Depressing
when you're on bad terms with your family . . .
when your relationship is in trouble . . . when
you're just coming out . . . when you feel alone
and unloveable.
Help is available.
South End Counseling
596 Tremont Street, Boston
437-9643

**healthy teeth . . . they're
a team effort**

Richard R. Bankhead, DDS
Paul O. Groipen, DDS
Kirk S. Bankhead, DDS
1259 Hyde Park Ave.
Hyde Park, MA 02136
(617) 364-5500
Mon.-Sat. & evenings

Women Take Back the Sexual Revolution

Continued from Book Review page 6

to have good sex, and men weren't particularly necessary for it. It was this theme that early '70s feminists took up and claimed as their own. Anne Koedt's 1970 article, "The Myth of the Vaginal Orgasm," tied women's dismal sexual experiences to oppression in more public spheres of life. Lesbians began defining lesbianism as a sexual/political choice to be independent from men. Heterosexuality itself was questioned. Sex was envisioned as a set of "options" with many possible meanings.

How fundamentalist women have responded to the sexual revolution is an interesting question, but the authors of *Re-Making Love* are ambivalent about the meaning of sexual progress on the right. They point out that the

Total Woman was not primarily about manipulating men. It provided women with a frequently successful way to manipulate *themselves* out of an untenable situation. (p. 143)

At the same time, they insist that Maribel Morgan's

...idea that women should get something in return for their efforts...is a decidedly feminist idea. (p.144)

Exchanging sex for shiny new refrigerators and classy winter vacations may not be a bad deal for women who have no financial independence and few real choices, but it is still an arrangement that is essentially

Buddy Systems: Stories Your Brother Never Told You

Continued from Book Review page 1

who you remember. And what you can forgive. Okay, my friend?" If there is any salvation in Mordden's books it comes through forgiveness. Many times his characters hurt one another with, and without, meaning to. But almost always they find the ability to pull together as a social, self-chosen family, and forgive.

While forgiveness may be the ultimate salve in Mordden's world, it is administered, usually, by storytelling. In various stories we are told that "storytelling can be dangerous" and that there are "so many men — so few stories." But reading these books it is clear that, if dangerous, storytelling is also necessary, and that there are at least as many stories as there are men. These stories are dramatic fables but also parables and meditations. There are no cautionary tales however; that would be redundant — every story in gay life is a cautionary tale.

What Ethan Mordden has done in these books is remarkable. He has taken his own life and turned it into fiction to present an ever-expanding vision not only of his world, but of the gay male world. And while it is true that many of the tales show a certain New York, Fire Island chauvinism, there is an emotional thread which holds them all together and renders them true. Mordden has written 13 other works of non-fiction, usually cultural criticism, and his unique gay sensibility shows through all of them. (It is also interesting to note the changes in the Mordden jacket photo over the years: from collegiate preppy to leather queen and beyond. Self-invention exists in life as well

sexist. Real sexual freedom for women, including women on the right, means that women *will* lose the traditional claims we have made on male support and commitment. The authors of *Re-Making Love*, though, are not sure that the tradeoff is worth it.

If sex is "free," then so, potentially are men; and women are left to fend for themselves in an economy that still drastically undervalues women's labor. (p. 199)

The book ends with a look at the current attack on sexuality. The spread of sexually transmitted diseases, AIDS being the ultimate among them, has contributed to the notion that since having sex can literally kill you, the solution is not to. In the 1980s, women have supposedly grown disgusted and unsatisfied with casual sex; we all want to get married and have babies instead. There are even some feminists leading the way toward a new traditionalism. Germaine Greer and Betty Friedan both apologized for the naughty things they said about sex fifteen years ago. Even the vaginal orgasm was rediscovered in the form of the G-Spot.

It is true that the women's movement has been divided over the issue of sex — whether it is important, what positive sex *is*, what it *means*. In recent years, the feminist dialogue about sex has been distorted by the fact that it has been mostly a dialogue about

as fiction.) In *I've a Feeling We're Not in Kansas Anymore*, *One Last Waltz*, and *Buddies* he has bridged the gap between the writer, his work and his sensibility. This is the storytelling that I miss from so many years ago: the keen interest in other men's lives, the fascination with detail, and the eye for the quirk and the ironic. But beyond storytelling it is this sense of community, of family, of buddies and brotherhood which makes this sort of storytelling not only important but absolutely vital.

Like Son, Like Father, . . . Like a First Novel

Continued from Book Review page 7

repeatedly referred to as "the white liquid," or "the thick, salty liquid," and "the thing" is often used in place of penis or cock. "More than sex," Philip thinks, "more than talking, it was this he loved — resting his head against Eliot's shoulder." It is no wonder that Philip ends up with his college friend, boyish Brad Robinson, with whom he shares bunk beds, hand holding, and his favorite bar, "Boy Bar."

To Leavitt's credit, though is the character of the gay journalist John Malcomson, a pre-Stonewaller aghast at what has happened to Philip's generation. In a wickedly funny scene, Malcomson rails against Philip's generation as one that is greedy and cowardly; to which Philip responds with a story about a college reunion in which members of the gay alumni were moved to tears by the

pornography. Surely there is far more we have to say about our sexuality. While *Re-Making Love* encourages us to keep talking, it makes no real suggestions about how. In fact, the authors ask:

Does feminism have any real option but to be puritanical, or, what almost amounts to the same thing, utterly silent on the subject of sex? (p. 203)

Sex can and must be an organizing issue for feminists, an idea that may seem obvious to many gay men and lesbians. Sex is a major preoccupation of every woman I have ever known, very far from being a "diversionary" issue of interest only to a small "special interest group." I have often thought that what upsets many feminists about sex is that when women have been open about it, we have found that our sexual feelings are remarkably like men's — we want sex, we think about it, we go after it. Somehow, these facts trip us up.

Re-Making Love (unlike a remarkable amount of writing about sexuality) does not apologize for itself, minimize sexuality, or make it secondary to the "real issues." Equal pay, nuclear holocaust, third world intervention — you name it, they all usually come before sex and pleasure as social goals. Not in this book.

*
*
*
For anyone who is interested, Allyn Amundson committed suicide in 1975. Gerry Sawyer died of AIDS in the fall of 1985. Bob, sometime in the early '80s, moved back to his family in the Midwest. Tony worked in several gay bars around Boston for years but seems to have left town, and I last saw Jack, in a leather jacket and a cowboy hat, walking around the South End last month.

sight of pink balloons. " 'Balloons,' John Malcomson said. . . . 'What are balloons? I'm talking revolution — real revolution. We gave you the chance to take over, and look what you did instead — just slid right inside the status quo.' " Like its protagonist, *The Lost Language of Cranes* lacks intellectual and moral vigor.

Though the book does not — as a whole — succeed, it has many wonderful parts. As a writer matures, like the rest of us he learns his limitations, his strengths and weaknesses. Leavitt's strengths, displayed both here and in *Family Dancing*, are in his ability to portray the emotional dancing of the family drama. Leavitt is to be praised for the ambitiousness of his book, and remains very much worth watching. I, again, eagerly await his next work.

Connexions

What International Connexions Do Women Have?

How much do we know about each other?
Are we worlds apart?

Connexions:
An International Women's Quarterly of news, analysis, and interviews translated from the international feminist press.

Subscribe Now:
Annual Subscription \$12
Canada and Mexico \$14
Overseas \$14 surface
\$20 airmail

Connexions
4228 Telegraph Avenue
Oakland, CA 94609
654-6725

JOHN GRAVES
Ph.D., L.S.W.

Phone
(617)
266-2069

Counseling & Psychotherapy

42 THE FENWAY
BOSTON, MA 02215

Newburyport — North Shore

Women's Counseling & Family Services

an affirmative counseling service for
lesbians & gay men, their partners & families,

Elizabeth Fragola, LICSW
Sarah F. Pearlman, LCSW
Cynthia Scheuer, Ph.D.

The Professional Building
Forrester Street
Newburyport, MA 01950

negotiable fees 617/465-1061 insurance accepted

Active, Goal-oriented
Therapy for Shyness

•Difficulties in meeting new people

•Anxiety about forming relationships

We develop an individual program of therapy, explain it to you in detail, and then encourage you to evaluate your own progress toward specific goals.

Our Licensed staff consists of psychologists, social workers, and psychiatrists. For more information call 262-9116.

Information-Evaluation-Referral Service
Insurance accepted

behavior associates

Boston

Danvers

Cambridge

45 Newbury St.

5 Elm St.

51 Brattle St.

262-9166

774-0142

nr. Arlington T

Specializing in short-term, problem-focused therapy.

ARADIA

COUNSELING FOR WOMEN

Individual, Couple & Group Counseling

Call 247-4861, ext. 58

520 Commonwealth Avenue
Kenmore Square
Sliding Scale Fee
Health Insurance Accepted

VACATION ELATION

Adventure & Relaxation Ideas, Near & Far

Greenhope Farm

RFD Box 2260, East Hardwick, VT 05836
(802) 533-7772

Enjoy the intimacy of women-only space and the majestic beauty of VERMONT. X-country ski on our packed trails. Hiking & downhill skiing. HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS.

Master Card & Visa
Mid-week discounts

WOMEN-ONLY SPACE
OPEN YEAR 'ROUND



Winter
Vacation
Ideas

The Center for Traditional Medicine
presents

THE 8TH ANNUAL POLARITY THERAPY, HEALTH PSYCHOLOGY AND TRADITIONAL MEXICAN HEALING SEMINAR

a cross-cultural health
vacation adventure

near PUERTO VALLARTA,
MEXICO

January 10-24, 1987

for beginners and professionals
CEUS for nurses

Brochure: 617-489-3806 V/TTY
Box 1526 Cambridge, MA 02238

Call

617/426-4469

to list your

guesthouse, travel agency,

or restaurant

for as little as

\$25 per week.

- INDIVIDUAL/GROUP/COUPLE
- GAY-SENSITIVE THERAPY

ALLAN SINGER, L.I.C.S.W.
PSYCHOTHERAPIST

COPLEY SQUARE - BOSTON, MA
617-266-2240
HEALTH INSURANCE ACCEPTED

DOWNTOWN Cafe

12 LaGrange 538-7037

Saturday & Sunday
Brunch

\$6.95

Wednesday night —
all you can eat
\$9.95

—WHERE IDEALS & GOOD DEALS MEET!—

580 Mass. Ave.
Central Sq. 'T'
661-1580



Open to
the Public
7 Days a Week

Best of a supermarket & a natural food store

Great gift ideas:

Nicaraguan coffee/ calendars/ T-shirts/ cookbooks/
candles/ bubblebaths / massages & Essential oils/
Guatemalan crafts/ records/ housewares/ best selection of
bulk herbs, spices, potpourri, nuts, and dried foods in the
Boston area.

Our Affirmative Action Policy includes
Lesbians and Gay Men

With this ad, shop once at lowest member prices!

—GCN—

Men and Women

This holiday season, give a healthy gift:

BODYWORKS GYM HOLIDAY SPECIAL

\$50 value
expires Dec. 31

1-month trial
membership
\$20

includes
free
workshop

53 River St., Central Square, Cambridge
576-1493

OTHER GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE

Dr. Jonathan D. Stein Chiropractor

Treatment of: Neck and shoulder pain,
Headaches, Low back pain, Bursitis, Acute and
Chronic Musculoskeletal conditions resulting
from occupational stress and nervous tension.

Evening and Saturday Appts. Available, 232-7200
375 Harvard St., Brookline, MA

Getting Well, Staying Healthy

A Wholistic Health Conference for
Individuals Concerned about AIDS
and AIDS Related Illnesses

Special Guest: Dr. Bernard Seigel
Friday, January 16, 7:30-9:30 P.M.
Arlington Street Church
351 Boylston Street, Boston

Keynote Speaker: P. Clay Stephens
Fenway Community Health Center
Saturday, January 17, 9:00-5:00
Quincy School
885 Washington Street
Boston



Sponsored by the Wholistic
Therapies Team of the
AIDS Action Committee

Desert Hearts

Available December 17.
Reserve your copy now.

"The love scenes are probably the sexiest in a movie
since Debra Winger and Richard Gere in 'An Officer
and a Gentleman.'" —Vogue

"A must-see film." —USA Today

"Upbeat, off-beat, and
refreshingly honest."
—New York Post

Women in
Cinema &
Gay Themes
in Film

Women's Music,
Jazz, Classical,
Rhythm &
Blues



ARBORWAY
VIDEO & SOUND

55 South Street, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130 • 522-1429
Mon.-Sat. 10-9, Sun. 12-7

Confused, Anxious,
Depressed?
The key to Clarity,
Peace and Vitality is:

EXPERIENCE

We have 20 years of it.

Call us:

739-7832

25 Huntington Avenue,
Room 331, Boston



MassBay
COUNSELING
ASSOCIATES

we're here for you!

*Fenway
Community
Health
Center*

Women's Health

Our new women's health clinician, P. Clay Stephens, PA, has years of experience in gay, lesbian and women's health care. Peggy Roberts, M.D. is a family physician who provides women's and primary health care services.

Gay Men's Health

Scott Harris, M.D., our new internist, is highly skilled and approachable. He addresses health concerns ranging from common colds/flu to sexually transmitted diseases and AIDS.

You can choose your own personal medical provider.

- Free Blood Pressure Clinic: Friday 10:30 - noon.
- HTLV-3 Education and Testing 267-0159.
- Lunchtime, Dinner and Evening Appointments now Available.

16 HAVILAND ST., BOSTON, MA 02115 (617) 267-7573

- Located 2 blocks from Auditorium T-stop.
- We accept VISA/MC, personal checks, and will bill major insurance carriers.

STAY WARM THIS WINTER!
DISCUSS POLITICS...

CONJUGATE VERBS...

EXPLORE NEW HORIZONS!

IN THE CASA SPANISH PROGRAM!!!

- Classes offered at every level, in both Cambridge and Jamaica Plain.
- Class size is small, teachers are experienced native speakers, and your fee helps CASA to expand it's work opposing U.S. intervention in Central America.
- Winter term begins the week of January 5th, and continues for 10 weeks.
- Once and twice a week courses offered, with cost from \$80-\$140.

REGISTRATION JANUARY 2ND AND 3RD AT CASA FROM 10AM TO 6PM

For brochure, registration forms, and
schedules, call CASA, at 492-8699.



CASA

CENTRAL AMERICA SOLIDARITY ASSOCIATION/

CENTRAL AMERICA EDUCATION FUND

CENTRAL AMERICA
EDUCATION FUND, INC.

1151 Mass. Ave.
Cambridge, MA 02138

*try
it out*

**new
england**

business guide

ACCOMMODATIONS

OASIS GUEST HOUSE
22 Ederly Road
Boston, MA 02115
(617) 267-2262

ACUPUNCTURE

MICHAEL W. HUSSIN, R.Ac.
ACUPUNCTURE/MEDICAL ARTS CTR.
15 Kenwood St.
Somerville, MA 02144
625-8840

ALCOHOL/DRUG TREATMENT

SPOFFORD HALL
Route 9A
Spofford, NH 03462
(603) 363-4545

AUDITING/TAXES

LILLIAN GONZALES
Certified Public Accountant
126 State Street
Boston, MA 02109
523-1060

BOOKSTORES

GLAD DAY BOOKSTORE
43 Winter Street
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 542-0144

NEW WORDS

A WOMAN'S BOOKSTORE
186 Hampshire Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
876-5310

THE REDBOOK STORE

Books of Political
Struggle, South Africa,
Central America, Gay &
Lesbian lit. etc.
92 Green St., J.P.
(617) 522-1464
Tues.-Fri. 12-7
Sat., Sun., 12-5

CATERING

AS YOU LIKE IT
AFFORDABLE CATERING
FOR ALL OCCASIONS
321-3475

CHIROPRACTORS

DR. RITA L. FIELD
HARMONY CHIROPRACTIC
699 Somerville Av.
Somerville, MA 02143
628-9547

DR. DAVID MOULTON

45 Newbury St.
Suite 333
Boston, MA 02116
266-8584

DR. JONATHAN STEIN

375 Harvard Street
Brookline, MA 02146
232-7200

CHIROPRACTORS

TIMOTHY KNIGHT
1122 Massachusetts Ave.
Arlington, MA 02174
(617) 641-2510

CINEMA

TREMONT ART 1 & 2
204 Tremont Street
Boston, MA 02111
482-4662

CLEANING

GRIMESOLVERS!
Residential and Commercial
Cleaning Service
501 Shirley Street
Winthrop, MA 02152
846-5146

DATING SERVICES

BUDDY'S
New England Area
(603) 880-7625

LUNCH BUDDIES

Brookline, MA
731-8934

DENTISTRY

DR. RICHARD BANKHEAD
DR. PAUL GROIPEN
1259 Hyde Park Av.
Hyde Park, MA 02136
364-5500

JOHN BARNA & AMY WETTER

790 Boylston Street
Boston, MA 02199
353-1500

DOG TRAINING

FAMILY DOG TRAINING CENTER
Dog Behavior Specialists
Medford, MA
395-9084

ELECTROLYSIS

JUDY FEINER
Central Sq., Cambridge
497-2019

FLORISTS

REMEMBRANCES FLORAL DESIGN
12 Mt. Auburn St.
Watertown Sq., MA
926-4289

GYMS

BODYWORKS GYM
53 River Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
576-1493

INSURANCE

DAVID L. COLLINS, CLU
Suite 830
50 Congress St.
Boston, MA 02109
1-800-352-3185

KUNEVICH & LAU

INSURANCE AGENCY
241 Washington St.
Brookline, MA 02146
731-1015

ROGERS & DINIS

INSURANCE
404 Mass Av.
Arlington, MA 02174
643-3040
NANCY GREENWOOD
40 Hampshire St.
Lawrence, MA 01840
683-7676

LABWORK

STATUS/MOVIDEA
Stats, Darkroom Services
92 South St.
Boston, MA 02111
338-3014

LAWYERS

NATIONAL LAWYERS GUILD
Lawyers Referral Service
227-7008
M-F 1-5 p.m.

MASSAGE

MIDTOWN HEALTH CLUB
Swedish, Japanese, Esalen
220 Huntington Ave.
(617) 262-1000, x298
M-Sat., 12-7

WHOLE HEALTH GROUP

Swedish, Deep Tissue, & Medical
45 Newbury St. #333
Boston, MA 02116
(617) 266-8584

MEDICAL/COUNSELING

ARADIA COUNSELING FOR WOMEN
520 Commonwealth Av.
Kenmore Square
Boston, MA 02115
247-4861

BACK BAY COUNSELING

DENNIS IADAROLA
25 Huntington Av.
Boston, MA 02116
739-7860

PATRICIA A. BURKE, LICSW

ADDICTION TREATMENT/
FAMILY THERAPY
10 Goodway Road
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
522-9446

DORCHESTER COUNSELING

Ron Woolson, LICSW
35 Juliette St.
Dorchester, MA 02122
288-1457

ENTRANCES AND EXITS

PSYCHOTHERAPY FOR WOMEN,
COUPLES AND CHILDREN
Jill Richard, LICSW
1130 Mass. Ave., Harvard Square
Cambridge, MA 02138
776-6158

FENWAY COMMUNITY

HEALTH CENTER
16 Haviland Street
Boston, MA 02115
267-7573

MEDICAL/COUNSELING

FOCUS COUNSELING &
CONSULTATION INC.
186 1/2 Hampshire St
Cambridge, MA 02139
876-4488

STEPHEN J. GOLDBURGH ED.D

Licensed Psychologist
1330 Beacon St., Suite 231
Brookline, MA 02146
(617) 734-6996

MASS BAY COUNSELING ASSOCIATES

25 Huntington Ave.
Boston, MA 02116
739-7832

DR. KENNETH H. ORTH

Psychotherapist
319 Mass Av
Arlington, MA 02174
643-1112

PLACE HOTLINE AND

COUNSELING
32 Rutland Street
Boston, MA
267-9150

TAPESTRY, Inc.

20 Sacramento St.
Cambridge, MA
661-0248

ULTIMATE IDENTITY COUNSELING

DR. SHIRLEY A. WHITING, M.C.S.
16 Old Colony Ave.
Pembroke, MA 02359
293-2267

WINGS THERAPY COLLECTIVE

60 1/2 Sacramento St.
Cambridge, MA 02138
876-8438

MOVERS

APPLETON MOVING CO.
(formerly Boston Trucking)
641-1234

OPTOMETRY

RACHELLE S. DUBEY, O.D.
DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY
Hours by Appointment
10 Diauto Drive
Randolph, MA
(617) 963-1333

PETS

PEACEABLE KINGDOM
Pets, Supplies, Grooming
142 South St.
J.P., MA 02130
522-5153

PHOTOGRAPHY

DAVID'S PHOTOGRAPHY
PO Box 375 McCormack Sta.
Boston, MA 02101
236-0365

PIANO TUNING/REPAIR

PIANO TECH
25 Peterborough St. #29
Boston, MA 02215
536-0526

PLASTERING

DAVERIK ASSOCIATES
FRED GRIMALDI
2 Woodworth St.
Dorchester, MA 02122
282-3961

PRINTING

RED SUN PRESS
94 Green St
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
524-6822

PRINTING 131

131 Charles St.
Boston, MA 02114
723-5130

REAL ESTATE

BOSTON BAY REALTY
668 Tremont St.
Boston, MA 02118
262-7386

COMMODORE REALTY &

INVESTMENT GROUP
David J. Vieira, Broker/Owner
P.O. Box 312
Hyde Park, MA 02136
(617) 364-1507

INNOVATIVE MOVES REAL ESTATE

Full Service Brokerage
Trisha Solio, Barry Wing
9 Warren Square
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
(617) 522-2896/ 524-6074

VICTORIAN BOSTON PROPERTIES

Real Estate Brokerage & Investments
577 Tremont St.
Boston, MA 02118
536-8700

ROLFING

LISA TACKLEY
Certified Rolfer
45 Newbury St., #333
Boston, MA 02116
782-1952/266-8584

ROOFING

GREAT ROOFS
P.O. Box M, Astor Station
Boston, MA 02123
282-7078

TAXES & FINANCIAL

PLANNING
MARJORIE E. POSNER
Cert. Financial Planner
33 Ashcroft St.
Jamaica Pl., MA 02130
524-7565

TRAVEL

FOREX TRAVEL
76 Arlington St.
Boston Park Plaza
482-2900

ITA TRAVEL SERVICES

370 Mystic Ave.
Somerville, MA 02145
776-4340

TRY GCN's "GUARANTEED ROOMMATE" AD

GCN's "Guaranteed Roommate" offer
All Roommate and Housemate Ads
that are Prepaid for Two Weeks
We will run until you find a roommate.

Ads will not be automatically renewed. You must call in every additional week you want the ad to run. Phone calls will be accepted all day Mondays and Tuesdays till noon.

ROOMMATE WANTED

ARLINGTON
Feminist and/or lesbian woman wanted for lovely duplex with 1F, 1M. Deck, fireplace, close to pond and MBTA — 646-7968. (22)

WARM EVERETT
2LF seek 3rd (25+) for 3BR apt. in Everett Sq. \$200/mo (heat incl.) 3 cats, no more pets. Sense of humor/absurd welcome. Nr. bus and Orange Line. Ann 426-4469 (day), 387-5831 (eve.) (C)
L cpl seek 3rd LF to share 3 bdrm apt in Everett. Close to bus/T. Smokers okay, no drugs, no pets. Must be considerate, quiet. \$222+ util. Available now. Call 389-1396, lv. mssg. (23)

RUSTIC SETTING IN SOSH AREA
LF 50+ sks LF to share 3brm hse in Pemb nstld in plnes. 14 secs to bch, 10 min to xway. Ideal for crtve, artsc prsn. 400 lncs util. 293-2267. (23)

COTTAGE ON POND
Seeking Les/femst — 30s — to share supportive smoke-drug-alcohol free home in Wellesley nr. rt 9. Quiet, clean, respons. Cat OK. \$350+. Call Charlotte, 522-4971. Avail Jan 1. (24)

DORCHESTER — FC
Prof. GBM sks roommate. Non-discrim. Lge space inc priv LR + BR, plus lge communal area. Sks working prof who respects privacy + is friendly. \$300+ ½ util. + sec dep. Avail now. Contact Willie, 265-6417 between 6-8PM or early AM. (22)

LESBIAN FEMINIST COOP—JP
needs 2 LFs to join in beautiful apt near orange line. Share food, resp, chores. No smk, cats, drg, min alc. Let's create a home. \$267 + .522-2921. (23)

CAMBRIDGE
LF, 26, seeks F for 2 BR Camb apt. Non-smoking, semi-vegetarian, politically progressive. Sunny apt., quiet street. \$325+ utils. 876-7538. (23)

LITCHFIELD, N.H.
Share a small house in rural setting with me (LF farmer), my dog Emma, and cat Madeline. \$200/month includes utilities (80% wood heated). Complete with large yard, compost bin, pond & waterfall. Available now. Short drive to both Manchester & Nashua, and only 1 hour from Boston. Call Peg: 603-883-7555. (24)

L40 & 2 cats seeks mat. resp. woman to share spacious somerv apt. 1st flr of hse wash dry in hse. Conv to Port & Davis Sq. T. Available Dec or Jan 275+ util. No smkrs & no mr pet. 625-4298. (22)
Seeking LF to share furn 2 bdrm apt in Boston. Near T. Pkg avail, laundry, pool, garden. Must be neat/resp. No smokers/pets. \$375 incl. heat. 536-0147. (22)

2 LF sk 3rd for newly est. big sunny newly renvtd. JP apt. Yard & porch. Nr T. Want to create warm, feminist home. No smk pls. For ASAP. \$250+. 524-7959. Day, Leslie, 273-1700 x 4359. (29)

DAVIS SQUARE/ JAN 15—FEB 1
Share lrg 1st flr apt in 3fam w/GM and my cat, Oggie. 3/4 furnished. Supportive, sense of humor. No smkr/drugs 350+ . Roger 624-1271. (23)

MEDFORD NEAR TUFTS
2 LFs sk 3rd woman 25+, semi-veg, no smoke, shr food & some meals. Have cat, no dogs. On qt st, prkg, W/D, yard. 300+ heat. 395-9021. (24)

SOMERVILLE — UNION SQUARE
LF seeks same for cozy 2-BR apt near T. Sk communicative, E-Z going individ with sense of humor. 300+. Pam 623-1835. Days 277-5280. (23)

JLF sks respon feminist F for homey 2 BR Dav. Sq apt 285+. Avail. now! No pet, smk, drg, min. alc. 12 steppers esp O.A. welcome. 623-8659. (24)

NEW!
LESBIAN & GAY NORTH OF BOSTON ROOMMATE EXCHANGE

Looking for a roommate or tenant on the North Shore? Let us help you make the right choice! Confidential/reasonable fees/convenient Salem location. Call today! 1-617-741-2557. (19,21)

VICTORIAN GAYS
2L & 2GM sk 5th for indep. supportive hshold in JP. Must be communicative & resp. Prefer 30+. We live in Victorian mansion with 4 frplcs, 8 ft windows, huge rms. Nr Jam. Pond. 300— utils. 524-7390; 522-3538; 522-8786, or 524-4892. (22)



APARTMENTS

MISSION HILL, NICE STREET/
Area, 5 bedrms, 7 rooms, eat in kitch, pantry gleaming hrdwd flrs — Great apt! 1500/mo heated. Avail imed.

Also same area — 4 bedroom, k6 room apt. Same as above. \$1100 + heat. Avail Immed. 646-0575 — No Fee — (24)
Share our home in Somerville! 2 apts: 2 BR, LR, DR, mod KT + BR — \$750. 4BR, LR, DR, Mod KT + BR — \$1100. Sep util. F + B porch. Nice yard. Bsm. Near T. LF owned. 628-1006. Leave mssg. Avail. Jan 1. (24)

Dorchester: 2nd flr 6 rm 2 bdrm full rvnvt: New kitch/bath/flrs. Safe ownr oc bldng. \$575/mo no util. Russo, 282-1196, eves after 7. (23)

Dorchester: Sunny 5 rm, eat-in kit, 2nd flr, ownr occ hse on Meetinghouse Hill. \$500+. Avail 1-1-87. 265-5653. (24)

SOMERVILLE PROSPECT HILL
2BR, LR, DR, hdwd flrs, high ceilings, renovated, prefer women, non-smokers. \$700/mo. + util. avail Jan 1st. Call 625-5986. (23)

GOVERNMENT HOMES from \$1. (U repair). Delinquent tax property. Repossessions. Call 1-805-687-6000 Ext. H-1437 for current repo list. (26)

RESORTS

GREENHOPE FARM
Woman-only space in Vermont. Cozy mt. Inn. Wood fires, delicious veg. meals. Horseback riding. X-country ski from our door. Downhill nearby. Farm animals. Solstice celebrations. (802) 533-7772. RFD Box 2260, E. Hardwick, VT 05836. (26)

"KEY WEST SPLENDOR"
SPINDRIFT TROPICAL RESORT
"Tropically perfect - Perfectly tropical" (The Gay Weekly News, Miami). Free brochure: Spindrift, 1212 Simonton, Key West, FL 33040. (305)296-3432. Helen-Hostess. (14.17)

CHECK'ER OUT AT THE CHECK'ER INN
Double rooms, coffee by fireside, parking. Apartments also available. 1 block bay, open year 'round. 487-9029, 25 Winthrop St. Provincetown MA 02667. (20)

WINTER WONDERLAND
The down-home place of your dreams in north country New Hampshire. Cross-country ski from our back door, warm up in the hot tub. Down-hill skiing, sleigh rides & skating nearby. You owe yourself a visit to the Highlands Inn. (603) 869-3978. Box 118G Bethlehem, NH 03574. Grace & Judi, In-keepers. (34)

TRAVEL

FOREX TRAVEL
Phone 482-2900
76 Arlington Street
at Boston's Park Plaza (E)

SPANISH PROGRAM FOR WOMEN
Study Spanish in Cuernavaca, Mexico. Live with Mexican family. Learn politics, history and culture of women in Mexico through experience and interchange. February. Write Neighbors/Sisters, Box 92, Hallowell, ME 04337. (1)

SWEET CAROLINE
A new women's guest house right around the corner from Duval Street in Historic Key West. Patricia Major, MD, owner. 529 Caroline Street, Key West, FL, 33040, or call (305) 296-5173 (28)

CARPENTERS

Looking to hook up with crew or independent carpenter. Good experience, own tools, excellent references. Still need to learn a lot of things. Call Charlie, 437-0850. (23)

EXPERIENCED SEC'Y AVAILABLE
If your sec'y is going on vacation & you need competent temporary office assistance, I am available June-Sept. Many years of office work: medical, legal & other. I currently do the outside typesetting for GCN. Call Vicki, 522-5529; leave message. (50)

ORGANIZATIONS

D.O.B
Support organization for leabians, 1151 Mass Ave, Camb. OCBC. Raps every Tues, Thurs at 8:pm. Special raps for 35+, parents, ynger women, baby boomers, singles, coming out, issues forum. All 8pm. Monthly events, outing club, library. Info: 661-3633. All women invited to participate. (V14.35)

BLACK AND WHITE MEN TOGETHER
Multiracial group for all people. Call (415) 431-1976 or write BWMT, suite 140, 580 Castro St. SF, CA, 94114. (V14.15)

LESBIANS
Are you lesbian, Bisexual or unsure? Looking for a group to go to? Come join us at BAGLY. Call Tony, 497-8282 (V14.32)

PROJECT TRUTH/FREE WILL
Info packet on police abuse of gay teens, and ways it can be stopped. 1 yr membership \$20. Info \$2 (for postage & printing) to: Project TRUTH/Free Will, PO Box 244, Paramus, NJ 07653-0244. (14.9)

MAN/BOY LOVE
A support group for intergenerational relationships. For more information send \$1 to: NAMBLA-GCNAD at 537 Jones ST. NO 8418, S.F. CA 94102 or PO Box 174, New York, New York 10018. (V15.23)

CONCORD MEN'S GROUP
A support group in Central N.H. for Gay and Bi-sexual men on Fri. at 7:30 pm. For more info, call Gay Info-line of N.H. at (603) 753-9533. (V14.18)

SERVICES

Waiter/bartender for hire for private parties or caterers. Will also set-up, greet guests, assist with cleanup. 648-7411. (24)

RAINBOW WOMYN DECORATORS
492-6040 (23)

BACK BAY COUNSELING SERVICES DENNIS IADAROLA
Serving the Community Since 1974
Insurance Accepted
739-7860

MASS BAY COUNSELING ASSOC
INDIVIDUALS, COUPLES
AND GROUP COUNSELING
INSURANCE ACCEPTED
(617) 739-7832
COPLEY SQUARE

RESUMES THAT WORK
\$35
Includes consultation
and completed resume.
787-4252

PERSONAL HEALTH
•General Medical Care
•Sports Medicine
•Diagnosis & Treatment of Disease
Private Medical Office
Confidential
ROBERT TAYLOR, MD
1755 Beacon Street, Brookline 232-1459



FOREX TRAVEL

76 Arlington St. Phone 482-2900

ALL FARES ROUND TRIP

Amsterdam	\$398	San Francisco	\$238
Brussels	\$388	Cancun	\$349
Dublin	\$399	Tokyo	\$699
Santo Domingo	\$305	Rio (NYC)	\$599
San Juan	\$202	Detroit	\$118
Los Angeles	\$238	Honolulu	\$558
Orlando	\$178	Montreal	\$102
Mexico City	\$372	Washington	\$91

RSVP

A Cruise to Remember
February 14-21, 1987
March 21-28, 1987

Meet 750 New Faces
in 1987!
From \$795.00

Lowest Prices

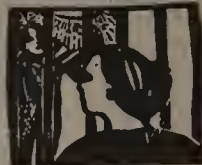
All Airlines

Prisoners Seeking Friends

TO ALL THOSE WHO IN AND OUT OF PRISON FIGHT AGAINST THEIR BONDAGE
(Alexander Berkman, Prison Memoirs of an Anarchist)

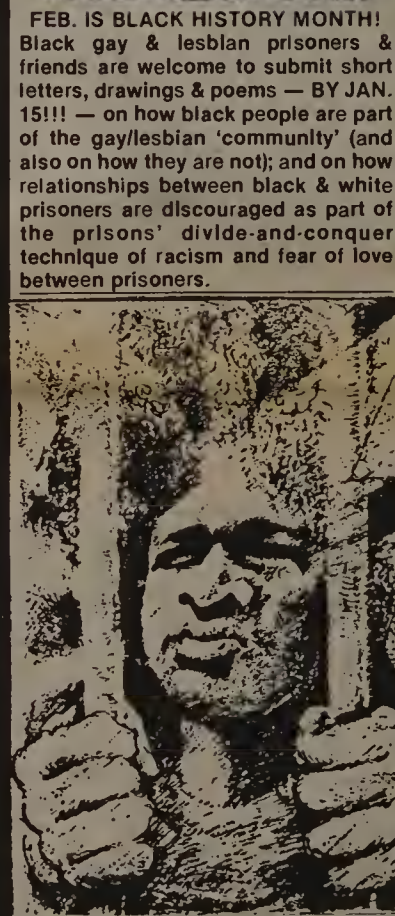


LESBIAN PRISONERS!!!
We are putting together a special edition of GCN with your voices & images. Soon a letter will come asking if you want to help. Check it out. Thanks!



SEATTLE GAY NEWS will accept penpal ads from lesbian/gay prisoners in Wash.(state), Oregon, Idaho and Alaska (only). When they can, they will also send their paper out to prisoners IN THESE STATES. (Hopefully we can get gay/lesbian papers in other regions to do the same.) Write them at SGN, 704 E. Pike St., Seattle, WA 98122.

FEB. IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH!
Black gay & lesbian prisoners & friends are welcome to submit short letters, drawings & poems — BY JAN. 15!!! — on how black people are part of the gay/lesbian 'community' (and also on how they are not); and on how relationships between black & white prisoners are discouraged as part of the prisons' divide-and-conquer technique of racism and fear of love between prisoners.



FREE to prisoners (while they last)!
Copies of BLACK/OUT, the new publication of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians & Gays, with essays, drawings, poems, and some penpal ads (on a space available basis). Write them at NCBLG, 930 F St.NW, Washington DC 20004.

PIPELINES INC. (!)
We are forming a national, volunteer, non-profit group to provide support and guidance to persons in prison. Our current focus is to pull together volunteers in every state to form support groups for persons without family and friends preparing for release from prison (COMING OUT!!). These people can help released persons find housing, employment, clothing, counseling and other services. Our focus is especially on gay/lesbian, transsexual, black, hispanic and handicapped prisoners. For details write Al Bouchard, P.O. Box 1668, Asheville, NC 28802.



PATIENCE, SWEET BUNS (BUNNIES)!
Fag Rag is a little behind schedule. We're hoping to get it together by Feb. WE'RE COMING!(slowly)smile)



Blond hair & green eyed fem looking for friendships with aggressive woman. I am open minded and honest. My interests are music, art, dance and other lesbians. Deborah MYERS, 904502, PO Box 535, Jessup, MD 20794.

I would like to write someone regularly and was told GCN was the place to start. Here's a brief rundown on me. I'm 26, Taurus, gay and hobbies include reading, writing letters and poetry, singing, collecting music. My nickname is 'Blue'. Christine LESESNE, 466-A491765, Box 8540, Pembroke Pines FL 33024.

Lesbian looking for that special someone. I enjoy nude photography and hot letters. Age and race not important. Please write soon. Cindy FISHER, Box 106, Balto MD 21162.

23 yr old single mother would like to correspond with young or old females that like to write. Lift weights, like to try new things and spend time with the kids. Write: Donna LOWTHER, Box 99 Pioneer, Framingham MA 01701.

I'd like to write other gay women to share our thoughts and interests. It's lonely in here. I really need to hear from you out there. Marcia STAACK, W24343-HA617L, Frontera CA 91720

Received your letter and legal materials for fighting their denial of my GCN, but don't know much about legal matters. I wonder if you could write the director and ask why GCN is being denied [Edward Murry, Box 26963, Richmond VA 23261-GCN readers, especially Virginians are encouraged to write!] Is there any local support around here that you know of? I'm not looking for money, just friends. J.D.('Diane') JOHNSON, 106424, Rt 1 Box 207-C, Lawrenceville VA 23868.

My name is Crystal Rai and I'm currently serving time for forgery of doctor's prescriptions. I'm in Max. 'Security' because of a suicide attempt when very depressed. I would really like some friends. I like rock and roll and interesting people. If interested, please write me (prisoners not allowed to write, but sometimes they don't check if you want to take a chance): Alexander HANNA, 83899, Tucker Max 6-17, Tucker AR 72168

I enjoy amateur modeling, physical fitness, reading, philosophy, sociology, poetry and other disciplines (and horror movies). Would like to write someone. Raymond V. KELOW, 165426, Box 45699, Lucasville OH 45699.

Black homosexual will like to hear from gays and lesbians inside and out. Hobbies: writing letters, ping pong, basketball, music and making love. John ('Boojack') ROYAL, 117208, Box 500, Boynton VA 23917.

I place a great deal of emphasis on people really listening to each other, to what the other person has to say because you seldom encounter a person who is capable of taking either you or himself seriously. Please consider writing. Arthur BROOME, 151889, Box 7 (1-A-37), Moberly MO 65270

Dennis Carr and Larry Freeman from Texas, please contact me. Jeffrey L. Say, D-12579-4275X, PO Box 8101, San Luis Obispo, CA 93409

Because I'm gay and in trouble with the 'law' my family has turned away. I'm looking for a gay friend to get to know me ('Brandy'). If there is anyone out there as lonely as me, grab a pen and let me know. Gary BOLTON, 43633, Box 2, Lansing KS 66043

I'm from British Columbia. Looking to write a penpal any age. I enjoy nature, hiking, photographing, green housing etc. Please write Harvey RUIZ, MSC-RA3-10, Box 520, Walla Walla WA 99362

BRAD MALLEN, please write Michael Sellars. I lost your address. Michael Sellars, 634034 13-A-4, Box 520, Walla Walla WA 99362

Looking for TV/TS for friendship plus. Hassan SABIR, Box 137, Tillery NC 27887

I enjoy country music and like to travel. Interested in writing other gay men who enjoy various kinds of sex. James HOWELL, 432465 Ellis I, Huntsville TX 77343.

Bi-male seeks correspondence for friendship. Spend my time lifting weights and writing poetry. Family has drifted away. Am lonely and need a friend. Talmadge P. GRAVES, 85015 MSU-4-16, Tucker AR 72168.

I need you as much as you need me. Locked down Texan wanting to hear from TVs, TSs or for real gays. Been known to fulfill dreams, fantasies and cravings of flexible persons. Chester Vinton HAAS, 327322A, Wynne B4-4-1, Huntsville TX 77349

Thanks guys and gals at GCN. Am in PC [protective custody] for self-defense. Very lonely. Without GCN it would be VERY hard. Laylon K. DAY, 82C 856, 35-31 Gaines Basin Rd, Albion NY 14411.

CALENDAR

December 20 to January 18

20 saturday

Boston — Lesbian holiday **potluck supper**. 156 Warren Ave., South End. 7:30PM. Info: D. O. B., 661-3633.

Boston — "Before Stonewall," a documentary of gay/lesbian history. Channel 44, WGBX-TV. 8:30PM.

21 sunday

Boston — "Bridges," a non-religious program for remembrance & renewal, with the Gay Men's Chorus & gospel and Latino music. Faneuil Hall. 3PM. Sign interpreted. Free. Info: 437-6200.

Boston — Metropolitan Community Church, Christian **worship** for the lesbian and gay community. 131 Cambridge St. 7PM. Info: 523-7664.

Cambridge — Amethyst Women Solstice celebration. YWCA, 7 Temple St. 3-6PM. \$4 more/less. Drug- and alcohol-free event for women. Sorry no childcare.

Cambridge — Lesbian Neighbors **potluck brunch**. 12-2PM. Info: 492-4044.

Boston — Gay Community Caroling. Arlington St. Church, 7PM. Spaghetti Dinner, 9PM. \$5. Info: Jim, 437-5870 or Dignity, 536-6518.

22 monday

Cambridge — Narcotics Anonymous for women. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. Info: 354-8807.

Cambridge — Battered Women's Support Group. 6:30-8PM. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant Street. Info: 354-8807.

Boston — Kenneth Anger, John Waters and Russ Meyer **film shorts**. Chet's Last Call, 65 Causeway St. 8:30PM. \$4. Info: 277-4618.

23 tuesday

Boston — "Say It Sister," progressive trivia with Jennifer Abod. WMBR 88.1 FM. 7-8PM.

Cambridge — Lesbians 22 and under. D.O.B., Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. Info: 661-3633.



We Are Family, January 7

25 thursday

Brookline — Am Tikva dairy/veggie **potluck brunch** and discussion: "Being Jewish at Xmas time." Workman's Circle, 1762 Beacon St. Non-gay friends welcome. Info: 782-8894.

26 friday

Cambridge — Lesbians 35+ meet. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 8PM. Info: 661-3633.



Holistic Therapy, January 16

27 saturday

Cambridge — "Holiday Spirits: Good or Bad?" Discussion for lesbian couples. D.O.B., Old Camb. Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. \$1 donation. Info: 661-3633.

28 sunday

Cambridge — Neighborhood GALA holiday **potluck supper**. Info: Carl, 497-2397 or Kathryn, 661-6896.

29 monday

Boston — "Musically Speaking," with Melanie Berzon. Every Monday, 8-10PM. WMBR-FM, 88.1.

30 tuesday

Boston — "Say It Sister," news magazine. WMBR 88.1 FM. 7-8PM.

31 wednesday

Cambridge — Amethyst Women's dance. Old Cambridge Baptist Church, 1151 Mass. Ave. 9PM. \$5 more/less. Drug- and alcohol-free event. Child care.

Jamaica Plain — City Life/Comite El Salvador New Years Eve Party. St. Andrews Church, Forest Hills T-stop. 9PM. \$7. Info: 524-3541.

No. Conway, NH — Gay Men's Social Assoc. New Years Eve mixer. 9PM. BYOB. Reservations by 12/27. Info: (603) 367-8304.

january 1 thursday

Boston — GCN's production night. All welcome. Proofreading: until 8PM. Paste-up: 8PM-on. 167 Tremont St., near Park & Boylston T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.

2 friday

Boston — GCN's volunteer night: all welcome to help mail the paper to our subscribers. Refreshments, good times. Anytime after 6PM. 167 Tremont St., near Park & Boylston T-stops. GCN: 426-4469.

Somerville — Urania: A lesbian and bisexual women's S/M support group monthly meeting. Info: 395-4849.

Brookline — Am Tikva Chanukah service and party. Workmen's Circle, 1762 Beacon St. 8PM. Bring traditional foods, children welcome. Info: 782-8894.

4 sunday

Dorchester — GALA monthly **potluck**. 4PM. Info: 825-4463.

5 monday

Boston — Gay and Lesbian Issues of National Ass'n of Social Workers monthly meeting. Info: Sherry Zitter, 524-4780, or 366-4401 X434.

Cambridge — Narcotics Anonymous for women. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. Info: 354-8807.

6 tuesday

Jamaica Plain — Lesbian and Gay Neighbors meet for dinner and friendship. Doyle's Cafe, Washington St. 6:30PM.

Cambridge — Former Nun lesbian support group. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 7PM. Info: 354-8807.

Boston — GCN **potluck and membership meeting**. All welcome to review past issues and help plan for the future. 167 Tremont St. 6PM. Info: 426-4469.

7 wednesday

Boston — "We are Family. Parenting and Foster Parenting in Gay Families," a video premiere. WGBH-TV, Channel 2. 9PM.

8 thursday

Cambridge — Lesbian Liberation. Women's Center, 46 Pleasant St. 8-10PM. Info: 354-8807.

9 friday

Brookline — Lesbian and Gay Neighbors of Jamaica Plain ice-skating. Lars Anderson Park. 7PM.

10 saturday

Manchester, NH — Planning for a lesbian all-day event in New Hampshire meeting. Manchester YWCA, 72 Concord St. 1PM. Wheelchair accessible. Info: Dykewomon, PO Box 23, Peterborough, NH 03458.

11 sunday

Jamaica Plain — Lesbian and Gay Neighbors monthly **potluck**. First Church Hall, Eliot and Centre St. 4-7PM. Bring a dish and a non-alcoholic beverage. Newcomers welcome. Info: 522-6253.

13 tuesday

Boston — Healing Service for all those affected by AIDS. Kings Chapel, Tremont St. Info: 437-6200.

16 friday

Boston — *Beginning Pieces* by Alfred Guzzetti. Boston Film/Video Foundation, 1126 Boylston St. \$4, \$3 for members. Info: 536-1540.

Boston — "Getting Well, Staying Healthy," holistic therapy conference for people concerned about AIDS. Evening program followed by Saturday workshops. Total cost \$25. Info: AAC, 437-6200.

18 sunday

Boston — Boston Intercollegiate Lesbian & Gay Alliance trip to Provincetown. Info: 437-7399.

Crimes of the Heart. Based on the play by Beth Henley. Starring Sissy Spacek, Jessica Lange and Diane Keaton. Directed by Bruce Beresford.

Crimes of the Heart doesn't get off to a great start. There's the cutesy opening credits, the soapy music and Diane Keaton acting like a ninny in oversized pastel clothes and a southern accent. She plays Lenny McGrath, the sister who stayed home to take care of grandad. It's not till Meg (Jessica Lange) arrives on the bus from Hollywood and the two of them get their sister Babe (Sissy Spacek) out of jail that the film starts to click.

While Lange plays the tough, bad girl, and Keaton the daffy "old maid," Spacek give a wonderfully fragile, yet gutsy performance as Babe. Nonplussed by her criminal predicament, she tells the busybody cousin next door that she shot her husband because she didn't like his looks. When Meg asks her to explain, she continues making lemonade and will only say that she aimed for his heart but got him in the stomach. Spacek operates on more than one level, giving the film the only depth it has.

The memory of their mother's suicide hangs over the McGrath sisters. In her scrapbook, Babe has kept the clipping of the tabloid cover: a photo of a sheet-covered body on their front lawn, another sheet the size of a dish towel next to it. The headline reads: Woman Hangs Self and Cat. In this reunion brought on by another sensational crime, the sisters find that if nothing else, they still have each other. *Crimes of the Heart* is an entertaining mixture of tragedy and a slightly awry, southern brand of humor.

—Monica Hileman

The Decline of the American Empire. Written and directed by Denys Arcand. With Dominique Michel, Dorothee, Berryman Pierre Curzi, Remy Girard, Yves Jacques. At USA Cinemas Copley beginning December 25.

If you loved movies like *Return of the Secaucus 7* and *The Big Chill* but wished they had a gay character — think again. *The Decline of the American Empire* is a new Canadian import that features a group of eight friends which includes a gay man — late '30s to mid '40s — who are colleagues, mates or otherwise associated with a major university.

Like *The Big Chill* there is much talk here about who gets to be happy, what happiness is, and who the hell is happy anyway. There is also a great deal of talk about sex: the men discuss how much they like and distrust women; the women talk about how much men don't understand them sexually. But for all the frank talk there is very little new here — everyone sounds like they have just discovered sex, when in fact it is Canadian cinema that has just discovered it.

Most of the heterosexuals here couple in one way or another — there is the usual announcement of an adultery to move the plot when it becomes almost stagnant — but Claude, the gay professor, has no one. Oh, he once had a lover but he died in a motorcycle accident after six months. And while all the heterosexuals have their emotional problems, Claude is dying of AIDS. Well, they never say it's AIDS, but he keeps having persistent sweats and pissing blood. His may be an openly gay, self-accepting, character but he still doesn't have a boyfriend and still is forced to carry the burden of portraying mortality.

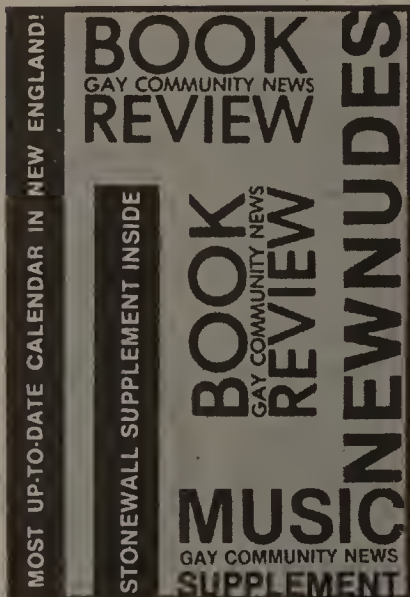
The Decline of the American Empire postulates that changing patterns of relationships, and the pursuit of happiness, signal the end. Others might point the finger to films like this.

—Michael Bronski

Calendar compiled by Terri L. Rutter

GayCommunity News

Give Gay Community News to a friend



and save 50% and more!

Give the gift that lasts the whole year.

GCN — the nation's premier lesbian and gay newsweekly — the paper everyone's talking about!

Now only \$25 — regular newsstand price \$50

My Name Is _____ Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I would like to contribute towards a free subscription for a gay or lesbian prisoner. \$ _____

Enclosed is my check for \$ _____ Mail to: **GCN Subscriptions**, Suite 675

Note: Special holiday rates end January 30, 1986.

167 Tremont Street, Boston, MA 02111

First Gift: \$25

For a friend or yourself!
25% OFF Regular Subscription
50% OFF Cover Price

Please send a gift subscription to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Gift card to read:

Second Gift: \$20

For someone special!
40% OFF Regular Subscription
60% OFF Cover Price

Please send a gift subscription to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Gift card to read:

Additional Gifts: \$20

What a savings!
Give one to everybody!

Please send a gift subscription to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Gift card to read:

Additional Gifts: \$20

What a savings!
Give one to everybody!

Please send a gift subscription to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Gift card to read:

Now in its fourteenth year of publication, *GCN* is produced by the non-profit, tax-exempt Bromfield Street Educational Foundation. All contributions to *GCN* are tax-deductible.